

**JPRS 79289**

**23 October 1981**

# **South and East Asia Report**

**No. 1063**

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23 October 1981

## SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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PROCEDURE FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Nomination papers of the intending candidates for the coming presidential election will be received by the Returning Officer at his office on September 21 between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., an Election Commission press release said on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The Returning Officer will scrutinise the nomination papers on September 22 (Tuesday) while the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers has been fixed on October 14. The presidential polls will be held on November 15.

The Secretary of the Election Commission has been made the Returning Officer and his office is situated at block number 5 and 6 of the Gazetted Officers' Hostel at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, the press release said.

Giving the required qualifications of the candidate, the press release pointed out that no one would be eligible for contesting the presidential election if his or her age is less than 35 years, if he or she is not qualified to contest the parliamentary election and if one is removed from the presidency under Constitution.

Any voter could be the proposer or seconder of only one candidate but one candidate could submit more than one nomination papers.

An amount of Taka five thousand will have to be deposited to the Returning Officer or he has to show the receipt of such deposit with a bank in the name of Election Commission at the time of filing nomination papers. Other wise, nomination papers will not be received by the Returning Officer.

The candidate or any one on his or her behalf could deposit the said amount with any branch of the Bangladesh Bank or in any government treasury under the head "P-deposits and advance-part-2-deposits not bearing interest-civil-deposits--deposits in connection with election."

The proposers, seconders and one person authorised by a candidate could be present at the time of scrutiny. Any appeal against the cancellation of nomination papers by the Returning Officer could be made before the Election Commission within three days of the cancellation of nomination papers. However, the order of the Election Commission will stand as final. The prescribed nomination forms are available in the office of the Returning Officer and concerned persons could collect them during office hours.

## BANGLADESH

### FINANCE MINISTER TALKS TO PRESS ON RETURN FROM PARIS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Saifur Rahman on Friday said the Paris Conference on the LDCs "is sure to bring positive outcomes" with 12 developed countries having already committed to back up the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA), reports BSS.

The countries which have already committed to extend full support to the SNPA are France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Ireland and Canada.

Mr Saifur Rahman, who led the Bangladesh delegation at the Paris meet told reporters on his return on Friday that some major developed countries like Britain, Federal Republic of Germany and the United States also agreed in principle to support the SNPA but failed to make any immediate commitment, particularly with regard to the target of aid flow to the LDCs.

Although conceptually everybody supported the whole programme. Countries like the United States showed some reservations with regard to aid modalities and follow-up procedures, the Finance Minister observed.

He said the United States was possibly less concerned with the magnitude and urgency of the problems. An attitude, they tried to explain, had resulted from "their own economic problems."

#### French Govt Lauded

He lauded the role of the new French Government for showing "favourable attitude towards the problems of the LDCs."

Besides, Mr Rahman pointed out, in the context of the existing global issues--which were enormous--it would be easier for the developed countries to agree to satisfy the 31 LDCs, whose problems were comparatively smaller.

He said that although it was agreed that the developed countries should contribute 0.7 percent of their GDP to the developing countries Bangladesh had stressed the need for subtarget arrangements for the poorest of the developing countries.



Bangladesh had suggested that at least 20 per cent of the total Official Development Assistance (ODA) flow should come to the LDCs by the year 1985 and which should be raised by 30 percent by 1990.

He described the Paris conference as "the most important and crucial conference" for Bangladesh and said that his delegation had played a pivotal role in highlighting the plight of the LDCs.

The Finance Minister said that Bangladesh role at the Paris moot was highly appreciated both by the developed and the developing countries.

CSO: 4220/7046

CHHATRA LEAGUE-KC CRISIS RESULTS IN PARTY SPLIT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Sep 81 pp 1,12

[Text] Despite repeated efforts to cement the crack in the leadership of Bangladesh Chhatra League (Kader-Chunnu), 26 Secretaries and members of the Executive Committee belonging to Jalal-Jahangir faction severed ties with the committee headed by Dr Jalal, says a Press release issued on Sunday.

The Jalal-Jahangir panel was illegal, unconstitutional and irregular, the Press release said and the dissident members pledged their solidarity with the 'legal' Farlu-Chunnu faction. In the conference of the organisation held on August 29 last Jalal-Jahangir gave their panel illegally in order to divide the organisation and foil the 'BAKSAL' philosophy laid down by Bangabandhu, the Press release added. They condemned the conspiracy to undo the 'BAKSAL' philosophy and split the organisation.

Following are the names of the dissidents and their position in the Jalal-Jahangir panel Bahalul, Majnun Chunnu, Member of the Executive Committee (EC); Golam Mohiuddin, Vice President; Muhibur Rahman Dublu, Vice-President; Jahangir Kabir Nank, Joint Secretary; Mukul Bose, Publicity Secretary; Morshed Alam, Publication Secretary; Motahar Hossain Cultural Secretary; Shahriar Rumi, Treasurer; Kamal Sharif, Assistant Secretary; S.M. Shahabuddin, Assistant Secretary; Matiur Rahman Bulbul, member of EC; Bashir Hossain, Member of EC; Habi [name illegible] Rahman, member of EC; Badrul Islam Khan Bablu, Member of EC; Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Member of EC; Abdul Mannan Pathan, Member of EC; Manjur Kader Qureshi, Member of EC; Alamgir Bablu, Member of EC; Jahirul Islam, Member of EC; Niranjan Sarkar Bacchu, Member of EC; Haider Ali, Member of EC; Siddiqur Rahman, Member of EC; Mobarak Hossain Selim, Member of EC; S.N. Abdul Mannon, Member of EC; Shamim Osman, Member of EC; and Nazrul Islam, Member of BC.

CSO: 4220/7050

**AWAMI LEAGUE-H RESOLUTION ON PRISONERS REPORTED**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The adjourned meeting of the Central Executive Committee of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) resumed in Dacca on Monday evening at the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue, reports BSS.

Presided over by Sheikh Hasina, Chairman of the party the meeting discussed the government's attitude towards the Awami League's four-point demand and the situation arising out of the Government's announcement with regard to the shifting of the date for presidential election, an Awami League Press release said.

The meeting was adjourned again till 4 p.m. on September 9.

In a resolution the meeting condemned what it said "pleading of a minister against the release of political prisoners for criminal laws at a public meeting on September 6," the Press release said.

The party reiterated its demand for the release of political prisoners including those convicted by the military courts.

**City Unit's Rally**

ENA adds: Awami League Dacca city unit chief Mohammad Hanif on Monday said his party cannot participate in the forthcoming presidential polls if its four-point election demand is not met.

Addressing a rally in front of the Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue on Monday afternoon Mohammad Hanif warned the Government that his party would launch a vigorous movement so that election could not be held without meeting his party demand.

Awami League's four-point election demands included shifting of election date from October to November third week, lifting of Emergency Rule release of political prisoners and fresh enrolment of electorate. Out of these demand, the election date has already been shifted to November 15.

After the rally, a procession was brought out in support of party's four point election demand. The procession was led by Awami League Presidium member Shajeda Chowdhury, Central Committee members Sheikh Abdul Aziz and Col (Retd) Shaukat Ali MP and Organising Secretary Tofail Ahmed and city unit President Mohammad Hanif. The processionists paraded main thoroughfares of the city and dispersed at the central Shaheed Minar.

CSO: 4220/7036

**AWAMI LEAGUE-H ISSUES STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) on Sunday night said that announcement of shifting the date of Presidential election was inconsistent with the government assurance regarding the fulfillment of three other demands for free and fair election, reports BSS.

The Working Committee of Awami League (H) which met at an emergency meeting with the Party Chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed in the chair described the government announcement as frustrating alleging that it was a clear violation of the government commitment of fulfilling its four-point demand.

The Awami League(H) in a press release said that its leaders in course of their meeting with the Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar on September 3 pressed home to accept the Party's four-point demand for holding free and fair presidential election.

The Awami League(H) expressed its firm determination to continue struggle for realising its four-point demand.

It also called upon the people to build up mass movement for the establishment of people's rights.

The evening session of the meeting was presided over by Mr Abdul Mannan, the meeting was adjourned till Monday evening the press release said.

CSO: 4220/7034



**AWAMI LEAGUE-H MEETING ENDS, REITERATES STAND**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 81 pp 1,12

[Text] Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) on Wednesday announced that there is no question of its participation in the forthcoming presidential elections unless its four-point demand was met, says ENA.

The party stand on the election was announced following a four-day extended meeting of its Working Committee which reviewed the Government announcement on election date vis-a-vis the party's four-point demand, says a party Press release.

The Working Committee which resumed its session in this morning with Presidium-member Korban Ali in the chair also condemned what it said the Government's dilly-dally attitude regarding the four-point demand set to create an atmosphere conducive to free and fair polls, the Press release added.

**Hasina Indisposed**

Awami League (H) President Sheikh Hasina who has been indisposed since Tuesday is now under treatment of Professor Nurul Islam says a party Press release.

The Awami League President advised complete rest by her physician cancel her visit to Beirut scheduled for Tuesday.

Meanwhile Mr Zillur Rahman, a member of the party Presidium has left for Beirut to represent his party's President at a conference of the Palestine Popular Union.

CSO: 4220/7040

**MORE DETAILS ON AWAMI LEAGUE-H COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Sep 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) on Friday asked the Government to accept the remaining three of its four preconditions for participating in the presidential polls by September 16.

The party also declared that "it would not be possible for AL to participate in the ensuing presidential election if the demands were not accepted within the stipulated time."

The ultimatum was contained in a resolution adopted at the meeting of the Central Working Committee of the AL(H). The adjourned session of the meeting was held at the residence of party chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed with herself in chair.

The resolution accused the Government of "violating the assurances" given to the AL leaders on September 3 when they met the Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar at Bangabnaban. It claimed that the Government had assured them of acceptance conditions. But so far the Govt. failed to announce any decision except changing the date of election.

By another resolution the party accused the BNP leadership of making "provocative and objectionable remarks" against Awami League leadership. The party said it appeared that the Government was not willing to accept their four-point demands.

The meeting also decided to hold a meeting of the central working committee at 5 p.m. on September 16, a Press conference at 10 a.m. on September 17 and a public meeting at Baitul Mukarram Square at 3 p.m. on September 21.

Meanwhile, according to AL sources the meeting authorised party chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed to form a parliamentary board to take decisions regarding the election matters.

The sources said that party leaders were also awaiting the return of Dr Kamal Hossain from his visit to London to take final decision regarding the election.

According to sources, majority of district-level leaders support AL participation in the election with its own candidate, while a section of leaders call for extending support to General (Retd) M.A.G. Osmany.

The sources pointed to the recent meeting between Sheikh Hasina Wazed and the retired General in this connection.

The situation is likely to be clear when AL(H) General Secretary Mr Abdur Razzak returned from Bombay where he had gone for treatment of his only daughter. Mr Razzak is likely to return on Sunday while Dr Kamal Hossain may return within a day or two.

CSO: 4220/7046

JOINT-PRC FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HOLDS DACCA REUNION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Speaker Mirza Golan Hafiz on Friday said that China is a tested friend of Bangladesh and she stood like a rock behind us in times of our need. The heroic people of China will also extend their support to the people of Bangladesh in times of need, he added.

Speaking at the Eid reunion function of Bangladesh-China Friendship Society at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Friday afternoon Mirza Golan Hafiz who is also the President of the society said that the friendly ties with China dates back to over four thousand years. Both the people of China and Bangladesh are closest friends and have similar experiences in the fields of cultural heritage. He said that the people of Bangladesh have a high regard for the people of China who have made a great leap forward in emancipating the lot of 100 crore people from the deep dungeon of poverty.

Narrating his recent tour impression of China, the speaker said that full religious freedom exists in China. He noted that he said his Eid-ul-Fitr prayer in a grand mosque of Shanghai.

The function was also addressed by Mr S.A. Bari A.T. Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Mayeedul Islam, Minister for Post and Telegraph, Dr Fazlul Karim, State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, former Minister and the Ambassador of People's Republic of China Mr Li Shu Qing.

Mr S.A. Bari A.T. in his speech said that the bond of friendship between the people of Bangladesh and China will be strengthened more and more with the passing of time.

Mr Mayeedul Islam praised the Government of China for its all round assistance to the development programmes in Bangladesh.

Dr Fazlul Karim said that frequent exchange of delegations in the fields of sports and culture will contribute much to the friendly ties between the two countries.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Vice President of the association said that the heroic people of China are standing like a rock in the face of two super-powers in the present world. China, he said, following the policy of Mao Tse-tung is giving moral and material help to all the genuine liberation movements in the world.



Referring to the hegemonistic designs of India against Bangladesh Kazi Zafar said that the people of Bangladesh will fight to the last in defending the independence and sovereignty of the country. He also hoped that China will stand by the side of Bangladesh in time of need.

In his reply the Chinese Ambassador praised the heroic people of Bangladesh for their role in defending their independence and sovereignty in the face of so many odds. Recalling the recent visit of Chinese Premier Zhao Zhi-Yang to Dacca at a time when the country was passing through a great crisis the Ambassador said that it proved that the people and government of China have a deep concern for the people of Bangladesh.

Amidst thunderous cheers from the audience the Ambassador declared that the hundred crore people of China will stand behind the people of Bangladesh in defending their independence and sovereignty in the face of any danger from outside.

The reunion was followed by a neatly arranged cultural function which included classical and folk dances and music. The function was presented by the Performing Arts Academy of Bangladesh.

Mr Nazmul Haq Mannu Joint Secretary of the association conducted the function in the packed house.

CSO: 4220/7026

OSMANI CALLS ON OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR SUPPORT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Presidential candidate Gen. (Retd) M.A.G. Osmani at a meeting on Friday called upon the Opposition political parties to support him in the forthcoming presidential polls. It is a struggle for the realisation of the rights of the people against what he termed 'one-man dictatorial rule.'

Addressing a public meeting organised by the Citizens National Committee at Baitul Mukarram, Gen. Osmani said that the future of the nation would depend on the success of this "struggle."

Presided over by Dr Ahmed Sharif it was addressed, among others by Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman Chairman Central Command Council of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Mr A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan, Dr M.R. Khan, Mr Ashraf Ali, Mr Khalequzzaman and Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury.

Gen. Osmani said that if voted to power he would establish parliamentary democracy in the country. He pledged to restore the 1972 Constitution minus the Fourth Amendment.

Reiterating his demands for shifting the date of presidential polls towards the end of November he said that he would not file his nomination paper on September 7 if the election date was not shifted. Exhorting BNP to follow the constitutional way and abide by truth and justice, he said that otherwise the ruling party might face a grave crisis. Gen Osmani said that Allah does not like injustice and untruth.

He said that if voted to power his Government would pursue a strong non-aligned foreign policy aiming at the welfare of 90 per cent of the people and help materialise the just demands of the common people.

He said that they want election but he reiterated his demands for free and fair one and equal opportunity to Opposition candidates for using government transport and publicity media.

Gen Osmani sounding a note of warning said that the ruling party must abide by law if not the people would compel them to do so. He cautioned the Government not to use the government employees or influence them for election purpose.

Gen. Osmani said that if voted to power he would give freedom of the Press, ensure social justice, emancipation of the women, encourage setting up of cottage industries, distribute khas lands to the landless, develop agricultural industry, would not allow banking in the private sector, formulate welfare oriented labour policy, strengthen the Muktiyodda Sangsad and Muktiyodda Kalyan Trust, try to release the freedom fighters and would complete the list of the name of the freedom fighters.

He cautioned the freedom fighters to remain united and not to be misguided by BNP. He alleged that BNP was trying to create division among the freedom fighters. He also called upon the ulema of the country not to be used by the ruling party. Referring to police, he said that he would try to build up the country's police force as a well equipped modern force to serve the cause of the people.

Regarding his defence policy, he said that he would build up a strong regular army capable of safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty and would also build up people's army with necessary training and would support the regular army in time of necessity Gen. Osmani said.

Recalling the role of the Opposition political parties following the Chittagong incident on May 30, he said that they had supported the Government to overcome the crisis. He also urged the Army not to be used to remain over alert of the protection of the country's independence and sovereignty.

Criticising the Government economic policy he said that grants and aids were being spent in the unproductive sectors.

Dr Ahmed Sharif said that the people are told of happiness but they have never tasted it. There was no security of life in the past and also today, he alleged.

Lt Col (Retd) Nuruzzaman said that the Muktiyodda Sangsad had supported Osmani as its free choice. He said that by supporting Osmani in the presidential polls did not mean that the Sangsad was indulging in politics. The Sangsad is supporting him for protecting the country's independence and sovereignty, he said.

He alleged that BNP was following politics of killing and oppression.

Mr A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan said that during the one-party Government and one-man rule, the independence and sovereignty of the country had been jeopardised. He said that the people were capable of defending the country's independence and sovereignty effectively.

We do not have economic freedom today which is a precondition of political freedom, Mr Khan said. The people's strength can ensure independence and sovereignty on the one hand and ensure economic freedom on the other, he said. The need of the hour is an able candidate and a well-organised organisation, he said. Praising Gen Osmani's role in the Liberation War and his stand during 1975, he said that he resigned his Parliament membership protesting the one-party one-man rule, Mr Khan said.

CSO: 4220/7026

**PRESS REPORTS POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTION DATE**

**Text of Press Release**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] The Election Commission on Saturday night announced the shifting of date of presidential polls to November 15 next. The election was due to be held on October 15.

A Press release issued by the Election Commission on the day said that the date of presidential election has been shifted in deference to the demand of many political parties. The Election Commission reviewed various aspects of the matter and shifted the date of polls earlier from September 21 to October 15. But most of the political parties were still persisting in their demand for holding the election in the third week of November, the Press release added.

Some political leaders approached the Election Commission and placed their demand for consideration of the shifting of the date.

According to changed schedule, the date for filing of nomination papers to the returning officer has been fixed on September 21 and the last date of withdrawal of candidature is October 14. The date of scrutiny of nomination papers is September 22.

Following is the text of the Election Commission Press release.

"In deference to the demand of many political parties for shifting the date of election to the Office of the President, the Election Commission reviewed the various aspects of the matter and shifted the date of poll from 21st September to 15th October, 1981 with consequential changes in the schedule. But most of the political parties were still persisting in their demand for holding the election in the 3rd week of November, 1981. Some political leaders approached the Election Commission and placed their demand in that behalf for consideration.

"The Commission took all necessary measures to hold the election on the 15th of October 1981. On review, it found that further shifting of the date of poll would create difficulties. It may be mentioned in this connection that the period of 180 days as prescribed in the Constitution within which the Presidential election must be held will expire on the 25th November 1981.



"To consider the matter, the Election Commission met on the 5th of September 1981. Notwithstanding the difficulties the Commission has given due importance to the demand of the political parties and has decided to shift the date of poll from the 15th October 1981 to 15th November 1981 and has accordingly issued a gazette notification today, the 5th of September 1981 specifying the revised schedule as under.

- a) Date for filing of nomination papers by the intending candidates to the Returning Officer. September 21 (Monday) 1981.
- b) Date of scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer September 21 (Monday), 1981.
- c) Last day for withdrawal of candidature, October 14 (Wednesday) 1981.
- d) Date of poll, November 15, (Sunday) 1981.

**Awami League-H Informed**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Civil Aviation Minister K.M. Obaidur Rahman on Saturday called on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at Sheikh Mujib's Road No 32, Dhamondi residence to convey on behalf of Acting President, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar the decisions of the Government on the discussion it held with the Awami League regarding the Presidential election an Awami League source said, reports ENA.

The source would not give details of the message, Mr Obaidur Rahman conveyed to Sheikh Hasina.

Awami League Presidium members Korban Ali Abdul Mannan and Zillur Rahman Acting General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury and Organising Secretary Tofael Ahmed were present during Sheikh Hasina's discussion with Mr Obaid.

It may be recalled that Awami League held discussion with the Acting President at the latter's invitation on its election preconditions on November 3 and the Government was scheduled to convey its decision on the matter to the Awami League on Saturday.

CSO: 4220/7030

## BANGLADESH

### MARXIST-LENINIST PAPER SCORES POLICY ON COUNTRY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Sep 81 pp 5,6

[Text] The powerful Russian equipped Indian Navy was sent to forcibly establish India's claim over New Moore Island. Gunboat diplomacy marks a new stage in Indira Gandhi's to better Bangladesh into submission. Interfering in Bangladesh's internal affairs is nothing new for the Indira fascist clique which aims to lord it over all of South Asia (of course, under the cover of a Soviet social imperialist umbrella).

Just little while ago was the astounding statement of Hasina Wazed, daughter of Mujibur Rahman and newly-elected President of the Awami League, that she count on New Delhi's help in overthrowing the Ziaur Rahman regime. There is no doubt at all that Hasina like her late father is acting under the direction of New Delhi. Before Hasina's stagemanaged election as Awami League President (that took place while she was still in New Delhi) two top leaders of the Awami League had visited Delhi and had secret meetings with Congress(I) leaders. The two Awami League leaders were up at the SAIL Guest House in Delhi, which is often used by RAW for its activities. It was all this that prompted Khandokar Mushtaque Ahmed to state that Awami League "politics...is being directed from New Delhi." (STATESMAN, April 8, 1981).

Hasina and the Awami League are not alone in their pro-Indian and pro-Soviet activities in Bangladesh. They have been joined by Major Jalil, President of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal. After a visit to Afghanistan, the good Major had the audacity to say, "Now people are happy there and only feudal reactionaries are opposed to it (i.e. the Russian occupation)." [from the May-June 1981 issue of FOR A NEW DEMOCRACY, organ of the Provisional Central Committee of the CPI-ML]

### Indira Directs Hasina

Indira Gandhi's directing of Awami League politics has not been merely political. It has been murderous and terrorist. Awami League members, armed by India have been threatening members of other political parties in Dacca and elsewhere. It is by now well-known that the marauding bands of Tiger Siddiqui were being directed by RAW from Indian bases. One of the first actions of the Morarji Desai Government was to hand over these armed bands to the Bangladesh Government. The then RAW chief Sankaram Nair however, saved the gang leader Tiger Siddiqui from this fate and he survived to continue to do bidding of the Indian expansionists.

India's interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs has as its aim the setting up of a pliant government in Dacca, one that would do New Delhi's bidding, just as the government of the late unlamented Majibur Rahman used to. The base of such political ambitions is the economic expansionism of the Indian comprador-bureaucrat capitalists who as sub-imperialist under the aegis of Soviet hegemonism wish to turn Bangladesh into one of their special areas of exploitation. Only recently the Indian High Commissioner in Dacca, Sri Dubey, said in the manner of an imperialist that "the economies of Bangladesh and India are complementary to each other (STATESMAN, April 8, 1981). It was in order to end East Pakistan's complementarity with West Pakistan and establish such a complementarity with India that the Indian expansionists undertook the Bangladesh war in 1971. What is the meaning of such complementarity? That India would provide the manufactured goods for the Bangladesh market (just as the erstwhile West Pakistan used to do) and Bangladesh would provide the agricultural raw materials. This is the classic imperialist division of labour that the Indian expansionists are trying to force on Bangladesh. It is in order to break from this that Bangladesh has developed its own jute textile industry, which has emerged as a formidable competitor to India on the world jute markets.

### Farakka Barrage

In attempting to browbeat and control Bangladesh the biggest weapon in India's hands is the Farakka Barrage. Ostensibly meant to assure sufficient water during the summer months to flush out Calcutta Port and thus prevent it from silting up, the Farakka Barrage has had grave consequences for the Bangladesh economy.

The record of the Indian Government (except for the period of Morarji Desai's Janata Party Government) is a sordid one of international piracy and contravening all established norms of international behaviour in matters concerning rivers that flow through more than one country.

To begin at the beginning from about 1952 talks were held between the Indian and Pakistani Governments to discuss the sharing of the Ganga waters. Notwithstanding the fact that no agreement had been reached the Indian Government went ahead with the construction of the Farakka Barrage and in 1973 it was presented to Bangladesh as a fait accompli.

In 1974 the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh met to discuss sharing of Ganga waters and even while the discussions were going on, the Indian side requested that the "feeder canal" be run for a limited period (21 April to 3 May, 1975). This was meant as a trial run. Indira Gandhi had committed in the talks with Majibur Rahman that the Farakka Barrage would be commissioned only after a mutually acceptable allocation of the waters had been arrived at. But the Indira Government broke this solemn commitment and turned the trial run into a full-fledged operation. Bangladesh protested against and was forced to take the matter to the United Nations' General Assembly. The General Assembly urged the two countries to resolve the issue by bilateral negotiations in a spirit of cooperation.

While the defeat of the Indira Gandhi Government in 1977, the Morarji Desai Government was much more willing to reach amicable settlements with the neighbours.

The 1977 Agreement had a guarantee on the minimum water that would be available during the dry period for Bangladesh. This minimum was to be maintained even at the cost of giving Bangladesh upto 80 per cent of the flow at Farakka.

The agreement was denounced by Indira Gandhi as a betrayal of India's interests. The CPI(M) played its own role in supporting Indian chauvinism and expansionism by denouncing the agreement as a sell-out of Calcutta Port.

The justification given for the Farakka Barrage is that in the dry months it is necessary to divert water down the Hooghly in order to flush out Calcutta Port and thus prevent the silting-up of the port. Well-known experts like K. Bhattacharya, who is an internationally renowned expert on water management and Dr. Ippen have shown that the diversion of Ganga waters at Farakka cannot solve the problems of Calcutta port. Observations over the last few years have shown that the diversion of waters through the Farakka Barrage, has in fact, not made any difference to Calcutta Port. It is then only natural to suspect, as Bangladesh rightly does, that the purpose of the Farakka Barrage is not so much to save Calcutta Port (which it cannot do) but to make Bangladesh pay the costs of India's development in the UP-Bihar areas and to gain a stranglehold on the Bangladesh economy which is so heavily dependent on the Ganga waters. In the 1977 Agreement Bangladesh had made a great sacrifice by agreeing to accept a flow which was only 40 percent of what it was historically used to.

The root of the problem of Calcutta Port was pointed out in an editorial in the STATESMAN of 15 July, 1981: "Farakka is starved because of the centre's greater concern for irrigation, drinking water and industrial requirements in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is patently unfair to continue to turn a blind eye to these increasingly lavish drawings and then invoke Calcutta's plight to persuade Bangladesh to make do with a much smaller quantity of water."

The decline of Calcutta Port started with the implementation of the Damodar Valley Project. Now there are more than a dozen major and a hundred minor irrigation projects alone in the upper and middle reaches of the Ganga, i.e. in UP and Bihar. So the problem is not the water Bangladesh gets from Farakka. Rather it is reduced flow reaching Farakka itself which is much reduced because of legal and illegal drawings of water in Bihar and UP. Farakka is only an attempt to make Bangladesh pay the entire price of these drawings in UP and Bihar.

The 1980 dry season flow at Farakka was abnormally low. Even the 80 per cent guarantee did not safeguard Bangladesh's interests. This had disastrous effects on Bangladesh's agriculture, ecology and economy as a whole. The veteran journalist Ajit Bhattacharya recently visited Bangladesh and wrote a report in INDIA TODAY (May 1-15, 1981) on the disastrous effects Farakka had on Bangladesh.

"People were seriously concerned with the impact that the drying up of water from the Ganga was having on the eastern part of the country which is watered by the river. Officials claimed that irrigation projects were being crippled, fresh water was disappearing, the Ganga estuary was silting up and industries and power projects dependent on fresh water were coming to a halt throughout the area. The process had begun after Farakka was commissioned in April 1975, but the situation had deteriorated rapidly in the last dry season and was critical already though the dry season would go on up to June.



"Indeed, a visit to the Kushma area shows that their fears have basis. The Gorai river, the main channel taking off from the Ganga near Kurhtia, is a sluggish trickle at the place where it separates from the main river. Fishing nets are stretched across it, but few fish are caught. According to official readings, the flow of Gorai at this point is 300 cusecs as compared to 2,500 cusecs at the same time last year. Yet there are no obvious signs of crisis. In the light of the setting sun the water at the confluence seems plentiful. From a boat, however, the shallowness of the water is obvious with shifting shoals of silt just under the surface.

"The intake of the big irrigation project at Bheramara, near the Hardinge rail bridge, is being deepened constantly by dredgers to keep the pumps going. Even so, the water is flowing very slowly into the pumps. The water level is three feet or more below the lowest marking on the pumphouse gauge.

"The threat facing Khulna port and the area upstream is increasing salinity and rapid silting. One of the biggest industries in the area is the Khulna Newsprint Mills (KMM) which exports half of its product to Calcutta. Its motor launch, the Keora is being used as a tug to haul one or two ungainly water-carrying barges upriver to search and bringing back the fresh water needed to keep the mill going—one of the two units has already closed down. The people of Khulna are depending on deep tube-wells, but even tube-well water is too brackish for the delicate newsprint and powerhouse machinery. The barge that fetches fresh water has to travel about 35 miles upstream before water with a low enough chloride content... is found."

The last monsoon was a good monsoon. Yet the situation in 1981 is worse than it was in 1980, as Ajit Bhattacharya's report brings out. The reduced flow is then due not so much to drought as to the increased drawings in the upper and middle reaches of the Ganges. Bangladesh's agriculture and economy are in a serious plight because of it.

The question of augmenting the dry season flow of the Gange's thus an urgent one, particularly for Bangladesh one third of whose agriculture depends on Ganga waters. Two proposals have been put forward. The Indian Government has proposed that the waters of the Brahmaputra should be diverted into the Ganga above Farakka by means of a canal running through Bangladesh. Bangladesh, on the other hand has proposed storage dams in the upper reaches in India and Nepal to conserve the monsoon waters now being wasted.

At first glance it would seem that the choice between the two proposals is merely a technical one made difficult by the suspicions between New Delhi and Dacca. But, as Ajit Bhattacharya writes in the same report, "...on closer examination, it is clearly Mrs Gandhi's Government that seems to be guilty of callously aggravating and exploiting the difficulties of a weak ecologically dependent neighbour to force it to accept New Delhi's diktat. International conventions governing the use of river waters and previous bilateral commitments are being misrepresented for this purpose."

CSO: 4220/7029



**SATTAR SPEAKS AT CONFERENCE OF COUNCIL CHIEFS**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Sep 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Khulna, Sept 6--Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar said here today that the Swanirvar Gram Sarkars and Union Parishads would be provided with more power and responsibility in future in light with the government policy of decentralisation of power.

Addressing a conference of Chiefs of Gram Sarkars and Union Parishads and representatives of different cooperative societies of Khulna, Jessore and Kushtia districts at the local cinema hall this morning, the Acting President declared that the date of election of the Union Parishads which was scheduled to be held in March 1982 would now be shifted to by six months.

The conference which was attended by about 2500 leaders of different local bodies was addressed among others by Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Local Government Minister, Lt Col (Rtd) Mustafizur Rahman, Home Minister, Mrs Quamrunnagar Zafar, State Minister for Local Government, Advocate Enayat Ali, a former M.P. and Chairman of Khulna Municipality and Mrs Ferdaus Ali, Secretary of Bangladesh Samabaya Union.

The meeting was also addressed by Mafizul Huq, Fayezuzzaman Khan, Nurul Islam Chairmen of Union Parishads, Liaquat Hussain, Abdur Rahman, and Enamul Huq of Gram Sarkar Prodhans, Musharraf Hussain and Hamidul Islam, cooperators.

**More Power**

Acting President exhorted the leaders of Gram Sarkars and Union Parishads to carry out their respective responsibilities and tasks towards the people with devotion so that more power could be given to them in future. He said the country was bound to march ahead with the united efforts of the people.

Justice Sattar reminded the Gram Sarkar chiefs of their responsibility towards increasing the foodgrain output, removing the curse of illiteracy and checking the population boom. "If we can successfully complete this three tasks, the country is sure to prosper," he added.

He said the country's deficit in foodgrains had come down and will come down further with increased foodgrain output due to canal digging programme.

The Acting President asked the members of the Village Defence Parties to ensure law and order in their respective locality and take measures to check dacoities and other criminal activities.

Justice Sattar suggested that litigation should be shunned in the case of small disputes as it meant suffering and miseries of the people in the long run. The small disputes should be settled through conciliation and necessary powers have been given to the local bodies in this connection.

Paying rich tributes to the Late President, Justice Sattar said the prestige of the country was enhanced in the international arena due to different policies of the Late President.

President Zia fully devoted himself to the reconstruction of the country on assumption of power and his contribution to the Liberation War "was very important." He wanted to build a self-reliant prosperous, happy and strong Bangladesh. "A leader like him will not be born in the next hundred years," he said.

"With our determination we will be able to realise this dream and complete the unfinished task of late President.

Capt. (Retd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury said that "there has been no deterioration in law and order situation of the country following the death of President Zia. Credit for this goes to Acting President," he said.

He said that there were calculated efforts by some interested quarters to defame the institution of Swanirvar Gram Sarkar and asked the leaders of local bodies to remain vigilant about them. The workers of BNP are inspired with the spirit and ideal of late President. "A dead Zia is more powerful than a living Zia," he said.

Home Minister Mr Mustafizur Rahman said that the implementation of 19-point programme would usher in progress and prosperity of the country. President Zia had chalked out this programme to improve the lot of the rural people who earlier remain neglected. He said maintenance of law and order was prerequisite to the development of the country. He asked the village leaders to remain alert to thwart any attempt at disruption in the society. We will have to resist for the uninterrupted progress of the country, he added.

All representatives of different local bodies who addressed the conference on behalf of their respective organisation expressed their determination to implement the 19-point programme of late leader and pledged total and unstinted support for the BNP nominee Mr Justice Abdus Sattar in the forthcoming presidential polls.

CSO: 4220/7034

**SATTAR: AWAMI, BAKSALITES MAY TRY TO DISRUPT POLLS**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar has called upon the people, particularly the workers of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its front organisations, to thwart any attempt to foil the forthcoming presidential election.

Addressing a reception arranged in his honour by the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the BNP, at Rarona Green on Friday, the Acting President said: "People want election to express their desired will. They will not allow anybody to obstruct democracy in the country."

Presided over by Mr Habibullah Habib, President, city unit of the organisation, the meeting was also addressed among others, by Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Secretary, students affairs, BNP, Mr Osman Ghani and Mr Jamal Shareef Hiru, Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of the city unit of the Chhatra Dal.

The Acting President said that while the nation was going to hold presidential polls on November 15, some Opposition parties had been mobilising themselves to frustrate it. He expressed the hope that the members of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal would successfully foil such designs.

He said that except General (Retd) Osmany, no Opposition party had so far announced the names of their candidates for the presidential election. He said that he felt that the Awami-BKSALites would not place any candidate. On the contrary, they might try to disrupt election by calling hartal on election day, throwing grenades, damaging buses, looting shops and destroying national property. "This cannot be allowed," he said and urged the people to face the situation with courage and fortitude.

Recalling the contribution of late President Ziaur Rahman, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar said that although President Zia was no longer physically present, he had left behind his revolutionary programmes. He called upon the students to work for the implementation of President Zia's programme as extra-curricular activities.

The Acting President said that it was through successful implementation of the 19-point programmes of President Zia that the country could reach its cherished goal. He hoped that BJCD would emerge as an ideal organisation.

Shah Aziz

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the BNP must implement the 19-point programmes of President Zia through peaceful revolution. He urged the Chhatra Dal workers not to confine themselves within the towns but spread all over the country and reach the message of the late President to every doorstep.

The Prime Minister said that the members of the front organisations of the BNP had a great role to play in sustaining democracy in the country. He said "we want to give you the responsibility of maintaining law and order in the polling booths."

Urging the students to be more united and strong, he declared that no conspiracy would be successful against the BNP.

Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said that the Chhatra Dal workers would stand solidly behind the Acting President and help implement the programmes of Late President Ziaur Rahman.

A minute's silence was also observed as a mark of respect for the late president. Munajat was also [word illegible] for the salvation of the departed soul.

The reception was also attended by members of the Council of Ministers, Parliament Members and senior leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

CSO: 4220/7046

DETAILS OF BANGLADESH-FRG COOPERATION PACTS GIVEN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and Bangladesh signed in Dacca on Tuesday a formal agreement under which Bangladesh has received 25,000 metric tons of soft wheat worth Taka 84 lakh as grant for 1980-81, reports BSS.

Mr Shaful Maro, Additional Secretary External Resources Division and Mr Boron Von Marschall, the FRG Ambassador to Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of the respective sides.

As in the previous year a quantity of 5,000 tons of the total amount will be distributed within the framework of 'Food for Work' Programmes. The rest 20,000 tons would be used through rationing system.

The wheat has already arrived in June this year. This shipment is the continuation of the previous wheat supplies which come to a total of 3,59,000 metric tons.

The two countries also on Tuesday exchanged notes regarding the German assistance in the field of food assistance and security. This arrangement is in pursuance of the agreement signed between the two countries on July 15, 1972 which is worth Taka 245 lakh.

Under this agreement the German side will extend the assignment of three German experts already working with this project. The German side will also draw up a report on stores protection, send two short-term experts for this programme and supply photoxin and other materials for this project.

Later talking to newsmen, the FRG Ambassador said "we owe certain assistance to you" and the FRG also received aids after the Second World War. He said his government was happy to provide Bangladesh aids and assistance.

Mr Von Marschall paid rich tributes to the late President Ziaur Rahman and said the friendly relations between the two countries were further deepened during his visit to FRG three weeks before his assassination. The aid to Bangladesh was a sign of confidence in Bangladesh effort for national uplift, the Ambassador observed.

CSO: 4220/7038



# FINANCE MINISTER RAHMAN HOLDS PARIS NEWS CONFERENCE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Paris, Sept 7--United Nations member countries now have the choice of leaving the world's 280 million poorest people in abject poverty or giving them the means to start living, says Bangladesh Finance Minister Saifur Rahman reports AFP.

Behind "all the soulless statistics and data presented last week during the first half of the 14-day U.N. Conference on the 31 Least Developed Countries (LDC), are the human beings who are in a desperate position," Mr Rahman said at a news conference this weekend.

"These people are at the moment just existing not even living," Mr Rahman said. "They are being denied the dignity of human beings."

But for the first time ever, all 31 of those countries ranging from Afghanistan to Tanzania--have drawn up comprehensive development programmes aimed at "bringing their people to the level of living at least," he said.

The proposal presented to the Conference by the Group of 77 developing countries calls for a 400 per cent increase in aid to the world's poorest nations or a total of 240,000 million dollars by the end of the decade.

For Bangladesh, whose 90 million people represent almost one-third of all human beings living in the LDCs, the extra aid money would allow the country to carry out an integrated development package that has been approved by the World Bank and is being stymied only for a lack of funds Mr Rahman said.

At present some 80 per cent of Bangladeshis live under the country's poverty line of 120 U.S. dollars a year, about 30 per cent of the labour force is unemployed some 21 per cent of the people can read and write, and they live on an average for 47 years. Almost 45 per cent of the country's population is under the age of 15.

But under the development programme Bangladesh intends to lift 100 per cent of its people from below the poverty line by the end of the century, become self-sufficient in cereal grains within the next few years eliminate illiteracy, reduce fertility diversify exports and provide minimal amenities such as health care clean drinking water and electricity, especially in rural areas.

All that is needed now is more money Mr Rahman said Bangladesh at present gets some 1,300 million dollars in aid and is calling for 37,000 million dollars more over the next 10 years.

The country had to curtail its development programme last year because of a shortage of funds, and the future of its agricultural plan heralded as a great success by the U.S. is in jeopardy because of the lack of money, Mr Rahman said.

The U.S. has said that some LDCs would not know how to efficiently use extra aid money.

But World Bank approval of Bangladesh's development plans shows that the U.S. comment just did not apply to his country, Mr Rahman said.

Mr Rahman also rejected as "ungenerous" a comment made by a delegate from a developed country, which he did not identify, that the LDCs could solve their own problems if their people just worked harder.

The LDCs and other countries in the developing world, whose economies are often based on only one item have been hard-hit by wild fluctuations in world prices of certain commodities during the last several years, he said.

A major Bangladesh export is jute, Mr Rahman said. While worldwide inflation has made the cost of such essential imports as food and energy skyrocket, jute prices have fallen he said.

"It is these inequities in terms of trade and other international institutions which are perpetually working against the people who labour from sunrise to sunset and yet cannot earn a living" Mr Rahman said.

"These inequities are denying them their fruits of their labour," he said "and most of them do not even know the reason why."

CSO: 4220/7036

# BANK GOVERNOR STRESSES NEED TO SLOW CREDITS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Mr M. Nurul Islam, has stressed the need for "slowing down" the bank credits and money supply, reports BSS.

The Governor was discussing various measures taken by the Bangladesh Bank to restrict expansion of bank credit at a meeting on Monday last with the representatives of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The Governor pointed out that a substantial expansion of credit in recent months to both the private and public sectors partly due to irregular accounts and non-recovery of overdue loans, among other things, had led to sharp rise in money supply which might put further pressure on prices.

On the other side, the Governor said, a slow growth of exports and availability of commodity aid coupled with sharp rise in the Import Bill for petroleum and other importables had put pressures on the balance of payment position.

Restriction on bank credits, he said, would help check growth of money supply and credits without physically restricting import or raising customs duty on imports and to ease the balance of payment position.

## Twin Measures

The twin measures of reducing the cash credit limits and imposing higher Letter of Credit (LC) margin for imports therefore, he said, were essential to deal with the situation caused by the sharp rise in credit and money supply.

He said that a five per cent general reduction in the cash credit limit "is nominal and is expected to ensure better and economical use of bank loan."

Care has been taken, the Governor said, to ensure that a minimum burden was imposed on importers of industrial raw materials and other essential consumer goods.

The federation representatives while indicating their understanding of the need and rationale of the measures taken pointed out the advisability of holding discussions with representatives of trade and industry on a regular basis.

Because, they said, while some of the measures would be temporary subject to adjustment later some might have to be continued for a longer time.

The Federation representing also pointed out the need for preparing a list of essential goods which would qualify for preferential treatment in regard to LC (Letter of Credit) margin.

#### Margin Restriction

The federation representatives that the margin restrictions would affect the small importers, but agreed to study the matter further in the light of actual situation.

They strongly urged for equal treatment to both public and private sectors in the matter of LC margin.

It was pointed out to the federation representatives that several public sector units do not compete with the private sector at all fall in a different category deserving differential treatment.

Moreover, all public sector units are required to turn over their surplus to the Government without being able to retain much for working funds the federation representatives were told.

CSO: 4220/7047

TEXT OF BANGLADESH-INDIAN JOINT STATEMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Sep 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 13--Bangladesh and India, in a significant move, today decided to reverse the unhappy trend in bilateral ties by pledging to resolve all disputes through discussions in a friendly spirit, reports BSS.

Agreeing that unresolved issues act as a source of irritation, two countries committed to "peaceful and speedy," resolution of the problems like the South Talpatty and the sharing of Ganges waters, a joint Press statement said.

Both sides agreed to strengthen ties on the basis of 'mutual respect, trust and goodwill,' and further develop the good neighbourliness, according to the statement, issued at the end of Foreign Minister Prof. Muhammad Shamsul Huq's two-days' talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao.

The two Foreign Ministers, resuming their talks held in the Bangladesh capital last year, agreed that both sides would constantly endeavour to settle any outstanding problems peacefully in a spirit of mutual understanding. About the south Talpatty issue, a major irritant, early talks were proposed at Foreign Secretaries level to examine all available data for report to Foreign Ministers with a view to an "early and peaceful" resolution.

Steps To Defuse Tension

The two Foreign Ministers reviewed implementation of steps to defuse tension over the issue and agreed to take further steps to remove "remaining causes of tension" and to resolve the island problem, the statement said.

They agreed to meet at "an early date," to settle the question of sharing the water of the Ganges between the two countries.

The two countries agreed to intensify efforts to find a solution to the long-term problem to augment the dry season flows of the river to their "mutual satisfaction."

About the lease--in perpetuity of the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh as provided by the Indo-Bangladesh agreement of 1974, talks would be held at Foreign Secretaries level next month to finalise the terms and condition of the lease and resolve all outstanding problems about the land boundary.



Pending finalisation of the terms of lease conditions would be created to ensure necessary facilities of access as provided in the past, the statement said.

The two sides decided to resolve the question of delimitation of maritime boundary and expressed satisfaction at the signing of new trade agreement last year and the news telecommunications agreement reached early this year.

As regards to the establishment of railway link between the two countries both sides agreed to take further positive steps to advance progress on the basis of talks held in October last year.

On the South Asian regional cooperation mooted by Late President Ziaur Rahman, two sides would work in concert with other neighbouring nations for the progress and implementation of the proposal.

#### **Text**

The following is the Joint Press statement on Indo-Bangladesh talks signed by the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and Secretary, External Affairs of India, today on the conclusion of visit of Foreign Minister Prof. Md Shamsul Huq to New Delhi.

At the invitation of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs of India, Prof Muhammad Shamsul Huq, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh paid a visit to India from September 11-13, 1981.

During his stay, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh called on Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the President, Shri M. Hidayatullah, the Vice-President and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India. He also called on Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs.

The two Foreign Ministers assisted by their respective aides held several rounds of talks in resumption of their earlier talks held during the visit of the External Affairs Minister of India to Bangladesh in August 1980. These talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. During the talks, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and also discussed regional and international matters of mutual interest.

The two Ministers recognised that friendly and good neighbourly relations between Bangladesh and India were clearly in the larger interest of the peoples of the two countries and also of peace and stability in the region.

The two Ministers also expressed their firm belief that the foundation for building good neighbourly relations lay in mutual respect, trust and good will. The two Ministers agreed that some of the unresolved problems between Bangladesh and India were acting as a source of irritation and strain on the relations between them and that an early and peaceful resolution of their problem was clearly dictated by the larger interests of the peoples of the two countries. They, therefore, agreed that both sides would constantly endeavour to resolve any outstanding problems between them peacefully in a spirit of mutual understanding and good neighbourliness.

## Land Boundary

Both sides agreed to intensify efforts for completion of steps already agreed upon at the Indo-Bangladesh Secretary level talks at New Delhi in October, 1980 towards early implementation of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement. The two sides confirmed their respective Government's acceptance of the delineation on map, by their survey officials, of the territory to be leased at Tin Bigha. It was agreed that a meeting at the level of Foreign Secretaries would be held in October 1981 to resolve all outstanding problems related to the land boundary, including finalisation of the terms and conditions of the lease-in-perpetuity of the Tin Bigha corridor. Pending finalisation of the terms of lease, conditions would be created to ensure that necessary facilities of access which have been provided in the past would continue to remain available.

## Maritime Boundary

The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress achieved in the resumed talks on the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and India in Dacca from December 2-5 1980 held in pursuance of the decision taken at their meeting in August 1980. They reiterated that the question of delimitation of the maritime boundary should be resolved by mutual agreement in a spirit of understanding and good neighbourliness and that another meeting be convened at a mutually convenient and early date.

## Ganges Waters

The two Foreign Ministers took note of the understanding reached between them at their meeting in August 1980 and of the report of the first government review meeting under the Farakka Agreement concluded in April 1981. They agreed that efforts should be intensified to find a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the dry season flows of the Ganges to the mutual satisfaction of both the countries. The two Foreign Minister agreed to discuss at an early date further measures to be taken in this connection.

The two sides, reaffirmed that efforts should be made to ensure that peace and tranquility are maintained on the border. It was agreed that each side would take effective measures to insure that their respective territories were not used for hostile activities directed against the other.

Both sides re-emphasised the need to stop illegal movement of people across the border and to strengthen existing arrangements and cooperation in this regard.

## South Talpatty

A free and frank discussion was held on the question of the newly emerged New Moore-South Talpatty Island at the estuary of the border river Hariabhanga. The two Foreign Ministers reviewed implementation of steps in defusing the tension over this problem. They reiterated their agreement to take further necessary steps to remove the remaining causes of tension and to resolve the issue. For this purpose the two sides agreed to early talks at the level of Foreign Secretaries to examine all available data and report to the Foreign Ministers for further necessary steps to be taken with a view to an early and peaceful resolution of this problem.

## Trade Railways

The two sides reiterated their willingness to pursue positively all efforts for increasing cooperation in various fields of mutual interest. They noted with satisfaction the signing of the new trade agreement in October 1980 the protocol on cultural and academic exchanges in December 1980 and the new telecommunications agreement in May 1981. As regards the establishment of railway links between the two countries, both sides agreed to take further positive steps to advance progress on the basis of the talks that have been held between the two railways in October 1980.

The two sides also agreed that the momentum of progress in the implementation of the proposal for regional cooperation among the South Asian countries should be maintained and all necessary steps for this purpose should be undertaken in concert with other neighbouring countries in the South Asian Region.

The two countries noted with satisfaction the similarity in their views on many of the international issues and agreed to cooperate closely in the various international forums in upholding the principles of the UN Charter, and the Non-aligned Movement.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh expressed his warm appreciation to the Minister of External Affairs of India for the generous hospitality extended to him and to the members of his delegation. He extended an invitation to him to pay an official visit to Bangladesh which the Indian External Affairs Minister accepted with pleasure.

CSO: 4220/7049

# IMPROVEMENT OF FARM CREDIT PROCEDURES URGED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Sep 81 p 5

[Article by Mir Obaidur Rahman]

[Text] Management is a broad concept. It encompasses areas of diverse nature. Management agricultural credit essentially covers the area of procedural methodology of loan disbursement and its recovery, fixation of interest rate which pays dividends both to the institutions and the debtor and determination of areas where the use of loan is most effective.

Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. The agriculture sector contribute 53 per cent of gross domestic product to the national economy and employ more than 80 per cent of labour force. The importance and necessity of agricultural credit deserve special consideration for the overall development of the country since attainment of growth rate of more than 6 per cent is only possible when agricultural output shows substantial improvement. Credit is the lifeblood for agricultural operation since most of the peasants are on the subsistence level and operate their farm activities with inadequate finance or finance from dubious sources with exorbitant interest rate. The fragmentation of land holdings and increasing landlessness in rural area manifest the importance of proper management of credit in agriculture and agriculture allied activities such as pisciculture, poultry and horticulture.

At present, institutional sources meet only 15 per cent of total agricultural credit in rural Bangladesh and the rest by money lender, relatives and friends. The rate of interest in the latter case is quite high which tell heavily on the farmer's already precarious economic condition. The different institutions entrusted with the financing of agricultural activities are Bangladesh Krishi Bank, six nationalised commercial banks, the Bangladesh Samabaya Bank and the IRDP. The financial institutions finances' agricultural activities under two programmes; the Special Agricultural Credit Programme (SACP) launched in February 1977 and the Normal Programme. The IRDP mainly finances the activities in cooperative structure through the formation of KSSs and the credit is advanced mainly on programme basis. This type of financing may be conceived as input financing; the financing is specially meant for production activities. It is safe to say that programme oriented input financing is most effective for increased production and farmers cooperatives can repay the loan without much difficulty.



Very often the repayment loan suffers due to the nonutilisation of credit in the productive activities. Landless farmers generally consume 26 percent of credit is generally advanced without any valuable collateral, the recovery suffers from uncertainty.

Table (in Crore Taka)

<u>Disbursement</u>	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	Total
SACP	23.00	73.65	41.27	36.17	174.09
NP	71.96	135.49	125.97	100.33	403.75
<u>Recovery</u>					
SACP	—	28.11	34.24	12.16	74.51
NP	58.50	78.60	82.50	45.66	265.26

Note: Figures up to December, 1979 for SACP and figures up to February, 1980 for NP

The table shows the disbursement and recovery position under SACP and Normal Programme of agricultural financing by BKB, nationalised commercial banks and Bangladesh Samabaya Bank Ltd.

The table asserts that recovery of loan under SACP was 42 per cent and under normal programme was about 65 per cent. Although disbursement and recovery figures during a period might not have a direct correspondence, the cumulative disbursement and recovery figure depict a disappointing picture.

The uncertain nature of recovery severely restrict the credit operation and retards the agricultural activities. The cumulative effect does not bring any good for the economy as a whole. It is imperative to ascertain the cause of default for better management of agricultural credit.

There are many reasons for the default. The most outstanding cause of default are due to the lack of trained and technical staff who failed to appraise the various investment proposals in depth. Determination of economic viability of a project which is subjected to the vagaries of nature is seldom accurate because risk element predominate the entire agricultural production. The untimeliness of credit availability is another reason for poor recovery. This result in diversion of credit to nonproductive activities. On the other hands, availability of credit in time facilitates the farmer to carry the activities according to plan schedule.

The recovery of loan may be ensured by its proper utilization. Thus supervision of credit use by the loaning agency may be a vital step for total recovery of outstanding and part credit. The supervised credit system will ease the administrative compliancy and also free the farmers on security such as title of land and other documents. The coverage of loan operation may be increased substantially and more landless and marginal farmers may claim access to credit facility



either independently or through cooperatives. This is a pragmatic approach which will cost little for the economy as commercial banks have already opened a good number of branches in rural areas and also a division in the head office for proper execution. Supervision of credit by persons qualified in various technical field no doubt, ensure the proper utilization of credit and thus recovery will be an easy task.

Economy in the credit supervision may be attained either through area approach or Group approach procedure of loan disbursement. "Experience shows that a compact and contiguous area comprising a cluster of villages, if selected for financing various rural projects and extending need based credit to all the viable borrowers, gives much better result from the viewpoint of utilization of money and its recovery than financing a few isolated individuals and sporadic items of investment." Supervision oriented credit programme ensure productive utilization and disbursement may be regulated by installments payments and past performance with credit. Group lending programme has several advantages. The element of risk can be minimized and landless and marginal farmers may be encouraged to form group for mini projects on agricultural activities. This group lending approach will ease the supervision and generate employment opportunities for marginal and landless farmers. "This system helps to ensure proper end use of the credit and fixes part of the responsibility for the follow up on the group members themselves."

The recovery performance sometimes suffer due to some side conditions which deteriorate the economic situation of the debtor. Since agricultural operation involves times and risk elements pervade both in the production and marketing area, the real income phenomenon of the producer cannot be wiped out. A reasonable price of the product only ensure profit and recovery propensity may be enhanced by the pursuance of a realistic price policy. The price of the product should be fixed up with proper consideration of the cost of the production and, if necessary artificial fixation of the floor price by the government in contravention of the determination of price by the market law of supply and demand may be desired. The recovery performance is also constrained by environmental apathy of the farmers towards non-repayment who took it for granted that repayment is voluntary and failure of repayment will not pose any problem for the credit institutions. They fail to appreciate that chain effect of non-repayment seriously jeopardise the expansion of financial facilities. In fact, the defaults has resulted in the reduction of loan operation by the financial institutions and enforce more strictness in granting loan for agricultural activities. Thus establishment of a separate unit to motivate debtor for timely repayment may expedite the recovery.

The existing coverage of 12 per cent of rural mass in the credit operation can only be extended by fair recovery of the outstanding and past debt. Poor recovery of the credit, not only restricts the expansion of credit to the landless and marginal farmers but also severely raises the administrative cost of credit management, the ultimate effect of which brings rescheduling of interest rate to cover the inflated administrative cost. Repayment capacity is entirely a function of the productive utilization of credit and motivation can play an effective role to infuse the idea that timely repayment augur the credit worthiness. The deteriorating economic condition of the landless and marginal farmers

can be averted by a well coordinated credit programme. Since most of the landless and marginal farmers cannot advance any security for credit worthiness, these groups may be extensively covered by production oriented programme with strict supervision by the credit institutions. It is the supervision oriented credit programme rather than security oriented credit programme which can profit both the financial institutions and the debtor.

CSO: 4220/7049

AGRICULTURE MINISTER RETURNS FROM PYONGYANG MEETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Mr Amirul Islam Kalam, State Minister for Agriculture and Forests, returned to Dacca on Sunday after attending a symposium on increasing food and agricultural production in the Non-aligned and developing countries held at the North Korean capital Pyongyang.

Mr Kalam who led a three-member Bangladesh delegation to the symposium described it as a great success in discussing agricultural and food production problems of the developing countries.

He told BSS on arrival that there were valuable deliberations at the symposium which stressed the urgent need for increasing food production and agricultural cooperation among the Non-aligned countries 'utilising their own resources.'

Mr Kalam said emphasis was also given on increasing cooperation in the field of agricultural technology and mechanisation.

At the symposium, one minute's silence was observed to show respect to the late President Ziaur Rahman.

During his stay in Pyongyang the Bangladesh Minister also called on the great leader of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK), President Kim Il Sung and conveyed the felicitations from Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar.

The symposium was participated by representatives from nearly 80 countries and 14 international agencies concerned with food production and agricultural development.

The Minister said that during his visit to North Korea, he also met with other North Korean leaders including the Vice-Premier and discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of agricultural development.

Earlier on his way to Pyongyang the Minister had a stop over in Peking where he met with the Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Li and other leaders and discussed bilateral cooperation.

The Bangladesh delegation to the symposium included the Agriculture Secretary, Mr A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR ISSUANCE OF URGENT PASSPORTS TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Government has announced a new procedure for issuance of passports on urgent basis pending police verification, says a PID handout.

The new procedure, which provides for filing of applications for urgent passports and collection of such passports by the applicants themselves from the regional passport offices alone, comes into force immediately.

Explaining details of the new procedure an official announcement from the Ministry of Home Affairs says that of late there has been a great rush of people to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking issuance of passports urgently pending police verification.

To avoid such rush as well as to alleviate the difficulties of the people intending to travel abroad for employment attending urgent work the following procedure shall henceforth be followed for issuance of passports on urgent basis.

(1) Applicants for urgent passports will have to deposit their passport application forms in the "Special Counter" meant for the purpose in the regional passport offices of their area with a fee of Tk 400/- (Taka four hundred) in the shape of passport and visa stamps. The applicant for urgent passport will have to appear personally before the passport issuing authority for submission of passport application. The passport will be issued with 10 (ten) days from the date of receipt of such applications.

(2) The applicant will also have to take delivery of the passport himself on the call date.

The Director-General of Immigration and Passports has been advised to apprise the Government-appointed recruiting agents/authorised travel agents of the new procedure. The Government-appointed recruiting agents/authorised travel agents are also being advised to arrange passports for their prospective candidates sufficiently ahead of their expected dates of travel to avoid last-minute rush for the purpose.

The existing procedure for issuing ordinary passports will continue. The existing procedure of issuing passports for visits abroad for official and Government-sponsored purposes and for study on approved scholarships/stipends will also continue.

FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON DELHI TALKS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 15 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] The just concluded Foreign Minister-level Indo-Bangladesh talks "proved to be a significant step" towards resolution of the various outstanding problems between the two countries, a Foreign Office spokesman said on Monday.

He said "as regards the South Talpatty island there was a reconfirmation of the commitment to defuse completely the situation by removing the remaining causes of tension. Such steps would include withdrawal of India's presence from the island and return to the status quo ante as of August 1980" when Foreign Ministers of the two countries agreed to a peaceful settlement of the problem in their meeting in Dacca.

The spokesman said that Foreign Secretaries of the two countries had been charged with the responsibility of examining all available data and to report to the Foreign Ministers for further steps to be taken with a view to an early and peaceful resolution of problem relating to South Talpatty.

He said that the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Huq to New Delhi at the invitation of Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao for resumption of talks on various outstanding problems between the two countries provided an opportunity for exchange of views in light of the latest position. The talks were held in an atmosphere of amity, cordiality and objectivity. The talks reviewed the overall bilateral relations and also covered regional and international matters, he said.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that in view of the urgency for early implementation of the land boundary agreement it was agreed that the draft terms for lease in perpetuity of Tin Bigha corridor would be finalised in October, 1981. The Foreign Secretaries were to meet in October to resolve all outstanding problems related to the land boundary including finalisation of lease terms. Pending the finalisation conditions would be created to ensure that all facilities provided in the past would continue to be available.

With regard to the Ganges Water dispute, the spokesman said, decision of April 4, 1981 of the first review of the Farakka Agreement might be referred to it said "both sides reiterated the great importance they attach to finding an urgent solution to the problems of the augmentation of the flow of the Ganges. Both



sides noted that appropriate and adequate measures for the purpose would have to be decided upon by the two governments at a high political level.

The two Foreign Ministers also agreed that they would meet again to discuss at an early date further measures to be taken with a view to finding a solution to the long term problem of augmenting the dry season flows of the Ganges to the mutual satisfaction of both countries, the spokesman said.

The foreign office spokesman further said that on the maritime boundary the two Foreign Ministers reviewed progress achieved since last meeting on maritime boundary held in December 1980 and reiterated that the question be resolved by mutual agreement in a spirit of understanding and good neighbourliness. They agreed that another meeting be convened at an early date.

CSO: 4220/7052

CHHATRA LEAGUE-JJ LEADERS ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh Chhatra League (Jalal-Jahangir) group expelled on Monday Messrs. Fazlur Rahman and Bahalul Majnun Chunnu from the organisation, says a Press release.

Meanwhile 17 leaders of the BCL (Jalal-Jahangir) in a joint statement issued on Monday alleged that the "Fazlu-Chunnu clique" were engaged in anti-organisational activities and the clique had been making "pretentious claims" of their loyalty to the programmes of the second revolution of Banglbandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (Jalal-Jahangir) group enjoys the blessings of Sheikh Hasina Wazed President of Bangladesh Awami League.

It may be noted that 26 secretaries and members including Bahalul Majnun Chunnu of the Executive Committee belonging to Jalal-Jahangir faction severed ties with the committee headed by Dr Jalal.

On Sunday the rebel group in a Press release termed Jalal-Jahangir panel as unconstitutional and irregular. The members pledged their solidarity with the legal Fazlu-Chunnu faction.

Both the factions separately announced the election of two sets of office-bearers at the end of BCL conference held last month.

CSO: 4220/7051

TEXT OF 14 SEPTEMBER PRESS NOTE BY INDUSTRIES MINISTRY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 15 Sep 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Government in a Press Note on Monday warned a small section of the delinquent employees of the sector corporations for preventing a vast majority of the officers and staffs from attending their respective offices at Industrial Bhavan. It said under no circumstances acts of indiscipline would be tolerated and no pains would be spared to ensure maintenance of congenial working atmosphere in the offices.

Following is the text of the Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industries on Monday.

The Government has noticed with satisfaction that there has been a very perceptible improvement in the overall attendance in Sector Corporations.

The officers have all reported for duty with the exception of a few; while considerable improvement has been noticed in the attendance of the staff.

It has however been observed with concern that a small section of the delinquent employees have persisted with acts of intimidation and obstruction.

To prevent the vast majority of the officers and staff from doing their duties, this section of employees have resorted to nefarious acts like tampering with locks and damage to public property, including Government vehicles.

Action under criminal law is being taken against those responsible for crimes of this nature. Also disciplinary proceedings have already been initiated against those officers who have still been absenting themselves from duty.

Elaborate security arrangement has been made to ensure maintenance of peaceful atmosphere in the offices. In this connection, the Government would like to make it clear that under no circumstances will acts of indiscipline be tolerated and no pain would be spared to ensure maintenance of congenial working atmosphere in the offices.

It is reiterated that the Government is fully aware of the necessity for fulfillment of all the legitimate demands of the employees but in no case will resort to illegal strike and violence be tolerated.

CSO: 4220/7052

PEOPLE URGED TO BE ALERT AGAINST BORDER INFILTRATORS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Deputy Home Minister Prof Abdus Salam has called upon the people in the bordering districts to remain alert against possible infiltration by anti-state elements from across the border for carrying out subversive activities in the country.

Addressing a rally of cross section of people at Nakla High School field in Jamalpur district recently, Prof Salam said that those elements who left the country after August 1975 political changeover, might try to return to create law and order situation. He urged the people to watch the movements of "new faces." "If you find their movements suspicious, apprehend them and hand over to the local law enforcing agencies," he said.

Presided over by Mr Firozuddin Ahmed, President, Naklathana unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the meeting was also addressed by the State Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources Subil Gupta, Joint Secretary of the BNP Zulmat Ali Khan, a member of the party's Central Committee Suboth Mitra Khandher Mujibur Rahman, Vice-President, Sherpur district BNP and Mr Abdur Razzak Ashish, President, Sherpur district Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal.

Stressing the need for maintaining a peaceful atmosphere in the country, Prof Abdus Salam said that only an ideal and law and order situation could ensure free and fair presidential election. The present government was determined to weed out anti-state and anti-social elements for the greater interest of the nation.

He urged the members of the law enforcing agencies to be impartial in their attitude and serve the people with dedication.

Mr Supil Gupta said that the present government would implement all the programmes of late President Ziaur Rahman and would fulfill all his commitments.

He said that various programmes of the late President, particularly the canal digging one, had begun yielding fruits. He urged the people to participate in canal digging programmes in future.

Mr Zulmat Ali Khan appealed to the people to rally round the BNP and vote for Mr Justice Abdus Sattar in the forthcoming presidential election to maintain political stability and ensure unhindered economic growth.

As the successor of President Ziaur Rahman, the Acting President had already proved his worth as a man of the hour to lead the destiny of the nation.

Mr Subodh Mitra said that with the shifting of the election date, all the Opposition parties should now take part in the election.

CSO: 4220/7042



FOREIGN MINISTER TALKS TO PRESS ON LEAVING FOR DELHI

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Sep 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof M. Shamsul Huq said in Dacca on Friday that he would discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations with India with the Indian leaders for peaceful settlement of the outstanding problems between the two countries, reports BSS.

The Foreign Minister was addressing a Press conference at Zia International Airport before departure for New Delhi on a three-day visit for the talks at the invitation of his Indian counterpart, Mr Narasimha Rao.

Describing the present climate of Bangladesh-India relations to be characterised by "understanding and amity" Prof Huq said that the talks would be held with an open mind.

The results of the New Delhi talks, he hoped, would pave the way for enduring friendship and increasing cooperation between two countries.

He said that at his meeting with the Indian External Affairs Minister "we will pick up the outstanding issues from where we had left in our last meeting held in Dacca in August last."

Land, Maritime Boundary

The four outstanding issues, he said, are the South Talpatty question, implementation of the 1974 Bangladesh-India land boundary agreement, the long-term plan for augmentation of the Ganges waters and the delineation of the maritime boundary.

He said he was carrying a message from Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar to Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. The Foreign Minister will call on Indian President Mr Nilam Sanjiva Reddy, Vice-President, Mr Hedayetullah and Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Prof Huq replying to questions said that both the countries were committed to peaceful settlement of the outstanding problems.

He expressed the hope that the talks would produce positive results restoring "mutual trust, understanding and amity" between the "two close neighbours."

He told a questioner that all but one navy ship of India had been withdrawn from South Talpatty.

The process of defusion of the problem, he said, had already started. This, he hoped will be completed resulting in full Indian withdrawal from the island and a peaceful solution to it.

Prof Huq told a questioner that no effort would be left for protection of Bangladesh's national interests on all the outstanding issues and problems.

"It's Not Sudden"

Asked the reason for sudden change in Indian position for peaceful solution of problems through talks, Prof Huq said, "it's not sudden." In Cancun (Mexico) and New York I had discussions with Mr Narasimha Rao on all outstanding issues including South Talpatty for a peaceful settlement to which both the countries are committed."

Asked about the prospect of a just solution of the problems Prof Huq said, "some forward movement has already been made" and expressed optimism for a positive outcome in the larger interest of the two peoples as well as for peace in the region.

The Foreign Minister hoped that the talks would be held in an atmosphere of amity, objectivity, mutual trust and, understanding and result in concrete measures for an early and peaceful solution of the problems.

The results of the talks Prof Huq hoped would pave the way for enduring friendship and increasing cooperation as expected between the two close neighbours.

He said that his present journey for three important missions would also take him to 36th UN General Assembly session and the Commonwealth summit conference in Melbourne.

Prof Huq leaves New Delhi for United Nations on September 13.

He will return to Dacca on October 9 after attending the Commonwealth conference.

CSO: 4220/7046

**FREEDOM FIGHTERS URGED TO UPHOLD NATIONAL UNITY**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, on Wednesday called upon the freedom fighters to forge a strong unity for fighting out the enemies of country's sovereignty and independence, reports BSS.

Addressing the Eid-reunion function organised by the freedom fighters residing in Dacca city at Shilpakala Academy, Mr Chowdhury who was a Commander of Sector Number 2 in the Liberation War said that the War of Liberation would continue till the enemies of the independence were eliminated.

Presided over by Mr Mudassir Hossain Modu a crippled freedom fighter who arrived at the Academy in a wheel chair the reunion was also addressed among others by Mr Azizul Haque Chashi and Khondkher Shafiqul Alam.

Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury declared that none would be allowed to grab a single inch of soil of Bangladesh territory.

Regarding the territorial issues of South Talpatty Dahagram and Angarpota he said efforts were being made for peaceful solution of the disputes.

He said if the diplomatic negotiations fail the freedom fighters would not sit idle. "I in my sixties would fight in the forefront against the independence were now working hard shoulder to shoulder with the freedom fighters for building the country.

Abdul Halim Chowdhury recalled that the late President Ziaur Rahman, whom he (Halim) termed as the greatest of all freedom fighters had wanted to rehabilitate the freedom fighters in their rightful place with dignity and honour.

He said that everybody including the persons in the Government must have regards for the freedom fighters.

Commenting on the debate whether the freedom fighters would do politics or not the Cooperative Minister made it clear that the very basis of the War of Liberation in 1971 was political for economic emancipation.

He said freedom fighters must involve themselves in national politics for upholding the national independence and sovereignty.

He said that the freedom fighters should shun their petty differences and spread themselves in each and every part of the country with the message of national unity for upholding democracy and stability in the country.

He said that the freedom fighters should also play a pioneering role in educating and inspiring the younger generation so that they could equip themselves with adequate knowledge and spirit to bring economic emancipation of the country.

CSO: 4220/7024

FORMER ARMY OFFICERS JOIN FREEDOM FIGHTERS GROUP

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Sep 81 p 12

[Text] Six retired and two dismissed Army Officers have joined the Bangladesh Mukti-joddah Sangshad and called upon all pro-liberation forces and individuals to resist unitedly the conspiracies of the anti-liberation forces.

In a joint statement, they said that the country was now passing through a critical time following the "mysterious killing" of President Ziaur Rahman. The "betrayers of the War of Liberation" have now captured the state power and hatched a deep conspiracy to wipe out the values, spirit and genesis of the Liberation War and the Freedom Fighters, they alleged. They said that they joined the War of Liberation and fought the Pakistan occupation army for national interest and today also they added, they have decided to join the Mukti-joddah Sangshad to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War and the interest of the Freedom Fighters.

The eight Army Officers who joined the Mukti-joddah Sangshad are: Lt Col (Retd) Sajjad Bir Pratik, Lt Col (Retd) Modasser Hossain Khan, Bir Pratik, Major (dismissed) Syed Mizanur Rahman, Major (dismissed) Ehsanullah, Major (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Major (Retd) Atiqur Rahman, Major (Retd) Syed Manibur Rahman and Major (Retd) Anisur Rahman.

The Central Organising Committee of Mukti-joddah Sangram Parshad demanded fulfillment of the demands of the hunger-striking members of the families of the 12 Army Officers. The committee warned the Government of the consequences if the lives of the hunger-striking persons are endangered.

CSO: 4220/7050



CANDIDATE OSMANY MEETING WITH SHEIKH HASINA REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] General (Retd) M.A.G. Osmany, presidential candidate sponsored by the 'Citizens' National Committee had a secret meeting with Sheikh Hasina Wazed, President of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina), according to a report published in the current issue of weekly SACHITRA SANDHANI.

The weekly reported without mentioning any date of the parley that it was the first meeting between the two leaders and described it as very important."

The report said that the meeting was important for General (Retd) Osmany. The role of Awami League (Hasina) in the forthcoming election would be important for him as he needed the support of the Awami League (Hasina) for putting up a tough fight in the poll, the report said.

On the question of possibility of AL(H) support to the retired General the weekly said that the chances so far remained were remote though a section of the party, specially the members of the Muktiyoddha Sanghati Parishad were "ready to support Osmany."

The SACHITRA SANDHANI further reported that the leaders of JSD, Workers Party, Awami League (Mizan), NAP (Muzaffar), and Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal also met Gen Osmany, recently. The weekly described these parties as considering to support him.

CSO: 4220/7032

FINANCE MINISTER'S REMARKS TO PARIS MEET REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Paris, Sept 2: Finance Minister Saifur Rahman urged the Group of 77 to adopt the substantial new programme of action prepared by the senior officials of the least developed countries (LDCs) reports ENA.

Making an intervention in the final preparatory meeting of the Group of 77 here on Monday night the Minister put up a strong plea for unity and cohesion among the developing countries.

Mr Saifur Rahman suggested "instead of frittering away our precious time and energy in negotiating among ourselves, we should put in our full weight behind the programme and negotiate unitedly with the developed countries for their back-up assistance for the programme."

He said the developing countries should concentrate more on negotiation with the developed countries than on whipping up unwarranted controversies on certain details of the programme to create impediment in the negotiation with the developed countries.

The Minister's appeal elicited favourable response from the members state of the Group of 77 who later adopted the programme without any reservation.

It may be noted the implementation of the substantial new programme of action in the 31 LDCs will involve an estimated expenditure of 220 billion dollars throughout the decade of 80s. Of this amount 100 billion dollars will be mobilised by the LDCs from their domestic resources and the rest 120 billion dollars are expected to be committed by the developed countries through their Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Commenting on the inaugural address of President Mitterrand yesterday, Mr Saifur Rahman told ENA it articulates the sentiments and expectations of the LDCs. His address is also indicative of the French Government's favourable response to the programme. He hoped it would serve as the peace-setter for the conference.

Earlier, Mr Saifur Rahman had separate talks with the Chinese Vice-Minister of Economic Relations with the Foreign Countries. During the talks the Chinese Vice-Minister assured his Government's full support for the programme.

CSO: 4220/7024

POLITICAL LEADERS APPEAL FOR OPEN TRIAL REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 81 p 8

[Text] Twenty leaders of ten political parties on Wednesday night urged the Government to stop the execution of twelve Freedom Fighter army officers who have been convicted and sentenced to death for the killing of President Ziaur Rahman reports BSS.

In a joint statement the ten-party leaders warned that if the execution of the twelve army officers were carried out the Government would have to face the consequences. They reiterated their demand for open trial of the killers of the late President.

The signatories to the statement are: Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Mrs Sajeda Chowdhury President and Acting General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina), Mr A.S.M. Abdur Rab and Mr Shahjahan Siraj, General Secretary and Joint Secretary of Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Mr Nur-e-Alam Siddiky President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan), Mr Mani Singh and Md Farhad President and General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Advocate Ismail Hossain and Pir Habibur Rahman Acting President and General Secretary of National Awami Party (Muzaffar) Chowdhury Haroonur-Rashid and Mr Pankaj Bhattacharya of NAP (Haroon) Syed Altaf Hossain and Sarder Abdul Halim of Ekota Party, Mr Siddikur Rahman and Mr Nirmal Sen of Sramik Krishak, Samajbadi Dal Moulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish and Abdus Samad of Gano Azadi League and Mr Haider Akber Khan Rano and Mr Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party.

CSO: 4220/7024

# CHHATRA LEAGUE CRISIS RESULTS IN PARTY SPLIT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Sep 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The crisis over the leadership of Bangladesh Chhatra League (Kader-Chunnu), student wing of the Awami League (Hasina), resulted in a vertical division in the organisation with the announcement of two separate central committees on Tuesday.

After bickering for four days over the leadership the rival factions of the BCL elected their own committees in separate meetings.

The out-going President of BCL, Mr Obaidul Kader declared at a meeting of the workers at Madhu's canteen of the Dacca University, the names of 59-member central committee with Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Mr K.M. Jahangir and Mr Hema-yetuddin alias Auronga as President, General Secretary and Organising Secretary, respectively.

On the other hand, a press release issued by Mr Bahalul Majnun Chunnu on Tuesday night said that the Subjects Committee of BCL Conference in a meeting held at the auditorium of the Jagannath Hall of the Dacca University had elected a 59-member central committee with Messrs Fazlur Rahman, Bahalul Majnun Chunnu and Jahangir Kabir Nanak as President, General Secretary and Organising Secretary respectively.

After the meeting of the subjects committee the names of the new central committee were announced at "Battala" of the Arts Faculty by Mr Shahpewaz Zaman Azad Choudhury, the press release said.

Mr Obaidul Kader while speaking at the meeting of the BCL said a Compromise Committee with five members each from two faction replacing the subjects committee elected at the council session on Saturday had elected the new leaders.

The Compromise Committee he said had voted 6-4 in favour of the new committee.

The Compromise Committee met several times at the Dhanmondi residence of Awami League (Hasina) chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed.

The subject committee was reportedly dissolved after its members fled in panic when threatened by gunmen loyal to a certain person.

The Press release issued by Mr Chunnu claimed that the subject committee meeting at Jagannath Hall was attended by Presidents and General Secretaries of 60 organisational district committees of the BCL. It has 70 district committees.

Meanwhile, the supporters of Mr Chunnu further claimed that the so-called compromise committee had no right to elect leadership of the BCL at the instances of Awami League (Hasina) high ups. They further said that they were opposed to the terror unleashed by one group which supported the candidature of a fugitive wanted in at least a dozen murder cases including that of a member of the intelligence service. They said that he had been staying with Kader Siddiky in India.

The faction headed by Mr Obaidul Kader had been enjoying the support of Mr Tofael Ahmed, the Organising Secretary of AL while the group led by Mr Bahaul Majnun Channu had the blessings of Mr Abdur Razzak, General Secretary of the party. It is also reported that AL chief Sheikh Hasina had her blessings for the panel submitted by Mr Obaidul Kader.

CSO: 4220/7023



# EDITORIAL HAILS SATTAR REMARKS ON MINORITIES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 81 p 5

[Editorial: "No Minorities"]

[Text] Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, the Acting President, has said that there are, conceptually, no minorities in this country. This not to deny the existence of any group or section distinct from others, nor to say that all are the same in every respect. Obviously, they are not and they cannot be. What the Acting President has emphasised is the fact that here in this country no distinction is made between one man and another or between one group or another on any ethnic, cultural, economic or social grounds. It is more than saying that all are equal in the eyes of law. That they surely are; but they are equal in all other ways too--socially and culturally, as citizens of the country and as agents of development. The statement of the Acting President is significant and deep-rooted. It reflects the attitude of the people and of the government. Recalling the ideals of late President Ziaur Rahman, the Acting President said that he was a real friend and a great patron of the people of this country irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

The occasion on which the Acting President has spoken is important too. He was the chief guest at the national convention of the aboriginal and the tribal people of the country. The convention was the first of its kind. It was participated by representatives of many a tribe and many an area, and the participants had brought into focus the problems they were faced with and the ways in which they could contribute to the process of national development. The convention dismisses the mistaken impression, if there be any, that the tribal and the aboriginal are forgotten people. They surely are not. The developmental efforts that have been mounted in tribal areas--in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, for example--are by themselves a pointer to the government's sincerity of purpose. It was nonetheless necessary to hold a convention of this kind, for it has drawn attention to the tribal and the aboriginal and to their problems, and has reminded all of the link that exists between them and the rest of the people.

The tribal and the aboriginal represent a distinct stream in culture. The values they have preserved and the social norms they have kept unaltered are not of the ordinary kind. And yet these are neither outside the factors which, taken together, constitute the culture of the land, nor are these basically different from those. There is no conflict between culture in general and the

specialized streams that are to be found within its well-defined limits. In this basic sense too, there are no minorities in this land. It would be important to preserve and safeguard these special traits and to enrich them if possible. It is through a proper understanding of the way of life of the tribal and the aboriginal that their talents can be made best use of and their full potential realized.

Responsibilities that the citizens of this country bear are the same for all. It is a common will, a common aspiration, a common determination that is at work behind all that is being done. The Acting President has called upon the special groups to actively participate in the main stream of development, and this is what it should be. Since they are no different from the others, their interest lies in promoting and strengthening forces that are being made use of for securing total, overall and uncompromising welfare of all the people. The tribal and the aboriginal realize this as much as others do. It is only logical therefore to expect that all would work together and in cooperation with one another for attaining goals that this nation as a whole must try to attain soon. It would be important, however, also to extend to the tribal and the aboriginal facilities they specially need and deserve, for the disadvantage they might have suffered from in the past must be done away with as quickly as possible.

CSO: 4220/7021

U.K. TO AID POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION, PACT SIGNED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh will receive Taka 64.78 crore as grant and subsidised loan from the United Kingdom for financing the 90 megawatt combined cycle power plant to be installed at Ashuganj under an agreement signed in Dacca between the two countries, reports BSS.

Of the total amount equivalent to 17.5 million pound sterling 4.68 million pounds (Taka 17.31 crore) will be in the form of grant and the rest will be in the form of subsidised loan under Export Credit Guarantee (ECGD) scheme.

The loan will be advanced by M/s Williams and Glyn's Bank Limited as soft-term loan bearing an interest of 7.75 per cent. The repayment will be made in 10 years after a three-year grace period.

The project will be executed by M/s GEC Gas Turbine Limited on turn-key basis.

The agreement was signed by Mr Shafiul Alam Additional Secretary, External Resources Division and Sir Michael Scott British High Commissioner in Dacca, at the Planning Commission on behalf of their respective countries.

After the signing ceremony, Sir Michael said that this was the first agreement to be signed between the two countries under ECGD scheme. He further said that the agreement was outside 40 million pound sterling Great Britain was providing to Bangladesh under bilateral assistance programme for the current financial year.

CSO: 4220/7021

**SATTA<sup>o</sup> MEETS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The leaders of the Patriotic Front who met the Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar at Bangobhavan on Saturday placed a seven point demand to the government for creating a congenial atmosphere for election in the country.

A Press release of the Front said that the leaders of the Patriotic Front discussed with the Acting President about the existing political situation in the country. They reminded the government of its responsibility for creating a congenial atmosphere to hold free and fair election.

The seven-point demand of the Patriotic Front includes withdrawal of Emergency and repeal of all black laws, release of all political prisoners, amendment of the Constitution for parliamentary system of government and resignation of the nominee of the ruling party from the post of Acting President to ensure free and fair presidential election equal opportunity for publicity in government news media like radio and television, return of the "patriots" of the August "revolution" to the country, arrest of price spiral, and cancellation of the 25-year "unequal agreement of slavery with India."

The delegation of the Patriotic Front which met the Acting President included, Mohammad Toaha, Convener of the Front, Mr Alauddin Ahmed Khondokar Ali Abbas, Mr Dilip Barua, Mr Matiur Rahman, Mr Sirafur Huq, Mr Abdul Latif Talukdar, Advocate Quamrunnahar Laily, Advocate Lutfe Adam and Advocate Garib Newaz.

CSO: 4220/7030

## MEET NAMES PROJECTS FOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] The first meeting of the study group (agriculture) of seven Asian nations ended in Dacca on Wednesday identifying 14 specific projects for consideration of cooperation among them in agricultural sector reports ENA.

The projects are soil seeds, water energy fertilizer and fertility, livestock fisheries pests and diseases, tools and machinery post-harvest technology, nutrition, forestry, consultancy and training.

Experts and representatives from Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Maldives and Bangladesh took part in the two-day deliberations of the meeting held at a local hotel.

As an arrangement for monitoring and implementing various projects the meeting proposed for evolving a three-tier "contact mechanism" at ministerial secretarial and scientist levels of the regional countries.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the meeting, Dr Kazi M. Badroddoza Country Coordinator for Bangladesh said the contact mechanism being the key to the success of all programmes was strongly recommended to be examined at the secretarial level meeting and approved at the ministerial level.

The meeting also recommended the necessity of economic cooperation among the regional countries in the field of processing and marketing agricultural commodities and initiating an action programme on the issue, Dr Badruddoza said.

The meeting laid strong emphasis for inter-country cooperation in those fields where the countries have acquired indigenous capabilities and experience that is unique to their problems and conditions and where there are mutual advantage and complementarities in cooperating among themselves.

It also recommended that lasting cooperative arrangements at the substantive and technical levels should be systematically promoted by linking appropriate institutions, facilities and programmes in various fields in the countries willing to commit themselves to serve as partners in technical cooperation.

Dr Kazi Badruddoza said the meeting also recognised as an urgent need to improve the system of information on needs capacities and opportunities so as to ensure



an efficient flow of information to governments and institutions of the countries in the region.

The meeting resolved that the governments of the countries in the South Asian region should endeavor to establish or strengthen suitable arrangements to encourage and maintain closer technical collaboration in the fields of agricultural research, extension and development.

Recommending for creation of a not work of complimentary training programme the meeting felt that the governments should keep in view the training facilities available in the region and make best use of such facilities to build up human resource in the region.

CSO: 4220/7040

PEOPLE'S LEAGUE CANDIDATE BEGINS CAMPAIGN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] People's League presidential candidate Mr Alim-Al-Razee on Wednesday said his party is committed to establishing "people's democracy" in the country which will ensure total control of Parliament over the executive, reports ENA.

Addressing his maiden public meeting after announcing his candidature for Presidential election the People's League Chairman said that his party wants to introduce a democratic system which will put an end to the prospect of coup once for all. "We want people control the guns and guns never the people," he added.

The meeting held at the Baitul Mukarram square was also addressed, among others, by party leaders Dr Ahmed Hussain, Amjad Hussain, Fazlul Huq; Yaqub Ali; Hamida Rahman and Kazi Nurul Islam.

Dr Razee ridiculed the BNP claim that its candidate Justice Sattar was a veteran politician. He said "We had been in politics during the last 30 years, but who had seen Justice Sattar on the street supporting a cause of the people," he posed a question.

Dr Razee said Justice Sattar as held the office of Vice-President as "a mere appointee." He said Justice Sattar was a judge in the erstwhile Pakistan and "since then always served as government servant."

He said after the death of President Ziaur Rahman, he was declared a Presidential candidate of the BNP in violation of the constitution.

He said this is a clear pointer to the fact that BNP has no love for democracy or respect to even the presidential system of democracy which he said "is an extravagant luxury for a poor country like Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220/7040

DACCA MEETING HELD ON MAO DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh Sammayabadi Dal on Wednesday observed the fifth anniversary of death of Mao Tse-tung, reports ENA.

On this occasion the party held a discussion meeting at Dacca District Sports Association auditorium in Dacca on Wednesday afternoon.

Chairman of Sammayabadi Dal Mohammad Toaha MP was the main speaker at the discussion meeting while it was presided over by Kandakar Ali Abbas Assistant Secretary of "the party."

Speaking on the occasion Mr Toaha paid glowing tributes to the memory of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and suggested the left political parties to learn the basic ideals of Marxism and Leninism.

He admitted that the left political and progressive organisations proved to be failures on different occasions in the past because of their disunity and lack of proper knowledge of progressive movement.

Mohammad Toaha put up a strong plea for unity among the leftist and progressive political forces and observed that there is no way for achieving emancipation of the people without making the country "self-reliant."

The discussion meeting was participated among others by Mr Santi Sen, Advocate Luthfey Alam, Mr Alauddin Ahmed, Mr Amanullah Kabir and Mr Dilip Barua.

CSO: 4220/7040

# MINISTER OPENS DACCA AGRICULTURAL MEETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] The agricultural study group of seven South Asian nations began its first meeting in Dacca on Tuesday for identifying the areas of mutual cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Inaugurating the meeting, Mr Amirul Islam Kalam, Minister of State for Agriculture and Forests called upon the members of the group to formulate a joint course of action on effective collaborative lines for agricultural research and uplift in the concerned countries. He felt that regional cooperation among the developing nations had become an important instrument in the present-day world for promoting sound development programmes.

The meeting is being participated by experts and representatives from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. It is a follow-up action of the decision of the Foreign Secretary level meeting of South Asian nations, held in Colombo in April last.

In his inaugural speech the Bangladesh State Minister recalled that the proposed regional cooperation forum among the South Asian countries was first put forward by late President Ziaur Rahman. "It is our proud privilege to give a concrete shape to his ideas and carry forward the movement of regional and global cooperation," he observed.

He was quite optimistic that much could be achieved in bridging the food gap in the countries of the region through a cooperative effort in Agricultural field. He noted that increasing collaboration and effective cooperation for utilising the material and human resources of the region would help establish and strengthen a more efficient agricultural production system.

Mr Amirul Islam Kalam said that the difficulties encountered by the Third World countries made it all the more imperative that the countries of South Asia evolve strategies on collective self-reliance through mutual cooperation.

He stressed the need for a systematic approach on the basis of careful study and adequate preparations and added that regional cooperation in agricultural field should be complimentary to the existing bilateral and multilateral co-operations and should be viewed as "substitutes for the same."

The State Minister pointed out that the goals of agricultural development had to be realised within the shortest possible time in view of "our very pressing problems."

He observed that there was information gap even with regard to our respective scientific capabilities in the region. He said that the related scientific capabilities developed over centuries and most suited to the socio-economic conditions of the region, should be profitably harnessed for collective regional advantage.

The State Minister was very hopeful that the deliberations at the meeting would materially contribute towards the achievement of "tangible results" and help the regional countries in realising the goal of self-reliance.

CSO: 4220/7038



**BUSINESSMEN FEAR EFFECTS OF CREDIT RESTRICTION**

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday expressed the apprehension that credit restriction would create great problems in utilising licences and adversely affect the implementation of the Import Policy, reports BSS.

In a memorandum submitted to the Chief Controller of Imports and Export (CCIE) the Chamber pointed out that public sector had been allowed to open letter of credit (L/C) against five per cent margin while there existed differential treatment between the public and private sectors.

The Chamber also pointed out the bottlenecks in the way of implementation of the Import Policy and suggested expeditious disposal of revalidation of L/C authorisation, continuation of duty benefit for imports under Wage Earners Scheme and increasing import entitlement of any industry to not less than 100 per cent.

A Press release of the Chamber said that out of the total import allocation of Taka 2950 crore for the current fiscal commercial and industrial imports under private sector accounted for only eleven percent and 26 percent respectively. The Chamber also demanded increase in the private sector's share considerably.

However the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports explained the financial constraints and said that credit restriction was a temporary phase while efforts were being made to mobilise funds to tide over the situation according to the Chamber Press release.

CSO: 4220/7030

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS OPENS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 81 p 12

[Text] A new training academy designed to improve planning and development capabilities of the personnel engaged in administrative machinery was inaugurated in Dacca Thursday by the Establishment Minister Mr Majedul Haq, reports BSS. Speaking on the occasion the Establishment Minister said that more such training academies would be opened to impart proper training to persons associated with administrative jobs in the Government.

He said that training should be conducted in such a way that our own shortfalls could be detected. Training from a very highly developed country would not serve our purpose, he added.

Planning Minister Dr Fasihuddin Mahtab, who presided over the function stressed the need for planning capabilities of the officials and said the development efforts would be thwarted if the planning cell did not function properly. He said the recent evaluation had revealed that our implementing capabilities had increased.

Mr J. Abedin, Vice-Principal of the Academy and Group Captain (Retd) Syed Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

The Academy will offer basic courses for foundation training of new recruits, refresher courses and seminars and workshops for the in-service personnel on a regular basis. The basic courses will be designed to impart training in development economics, business information systems, statistics, planning techniques and allied subjects.

The academy when fully developed will have an annual capacity for training 260 officers.

A four-week training course on project management, the first programme being run by the academy, was also inaugurated on the same day.

A batch of 20 officers drawn from different ministries and agencies concerned are participating in the programme.

CSO: 4220/7030

# POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD PLANS NEW GIANT PLANTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Power Development Board would install a number of giant power generating units under long and short-term programmes to generate additional power for ensuring systematic reliability in the power system of the country, reports BSS.

An additional 210 megawatt turbine, the single largest generating unit in the country, at Ghorasal, two more units at Ashuganj--150 megawatt capacity each--and the 50 megawatt third unit at Karnafully Hydel Project are four of the several other generating units to be installed in the next few years for additional generation of power.

A Power Board source said that the work of the Karnafully third unit had almost been completed to put it into commission by the first week of next month. Feasibility study for the fourth and the fifth units at Kaptai having fifty megawatt capacity. Each had also been done and civil engineering works had been progressing to complete the project by 1986. Negotiations for fund for the project had been going on with Japan, the source said.

In an interview with the BSS the Chairman of the Power Development Board, Brigadier M.A. Munim said that the installed capacity of the generation system would roughly be doubled by 1985 and eleven hundred and fifty megawatt power would be available for transmission. The demands for power in the country would then roughly be nine hundred and forty three megawatt, he added.

One 60 megawatt steam station at Sikalbaha in Chittagong and one 110 megawatt steam station at Khulna are being built under Czechoslovak aid. These stations would be completed in the next two years.

The Ashuganj units of the projects are being financed by the World Bank, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC). These units would come into operation in 1985 and 1986.

The Ghorasal unit is being financed by the Soviet Union and it would come into operation in 1984.

The Chairman of the Power Development Board said that constant efforts were being made to develop cheapest but abundant electricity preferably by careful exploitation of the natural resources of the country. This is being done to cater to the existing and potential demands of the people.

He said that simultaneous efforts were being made to balance the transmission and distribution system with the generation of the power in the country.

In reply to a question, the Chairman of the Power Board attributed the cause of power breakdown mainly to mechanical faults due to aging machinery and equipment. "Because of many constraints, we can not go for routine overhauling of the equipment. We have to run the machine more than eight thousand hours at a stretch overstripping the overhauling date," he said.

Brigadier Munim said that the Board had done some overhauling work on some equipment despite inconveniences caused to the consumers. These overhauling works would improve the generation capacity of the units, he added.

The Chairman of the Power Board said that the cost of the production of electricity was dependent on imported oil, gas and hydraulic system. We cannot reduce the generation cost of power when the price of oil goes up, he said and added that the per unit fuel cost for generation of power in the western zone is Taka 1.80 which is more than 22 times the cost in the eastern zone.

He said during the last financial year the total cost of fuel for generation of power was Taka one hundred thirty six crore and seventeen lakh of which Taka one hundred twenty one crore and five lakh were spent for the western zone, where generation is based on oil only.

CSO: 4220/7043

GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR RUBBER CULTIVATION REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Chittagong, Sept 10--The government has drawn up an elaborate programme to bring about 70,000 acres of land under rubber cultivation within 1990 in the country.

Of this land 40,000 acres will be set aside for rubber cultivation under government management and 30,000 acres under private ownership.

The Asian Development Bank is committed to provide 20 million dollars for materialising the programme.

According to the official sources, the programme is aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in rubber. The present requirement of rubber in the country is about 10 million pounds, but the production of current year was only 1.2 million pounds.

The programme was prepared on the basis of a feasibility report of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). The Asian Development Bank financed FAO for undertaking this feasibility study.

The work under this programme will be completed in two phases. The first phase envisages the production of high yielding varieties of rubber over an area of 25 068 acres by 1937 [as published]. The remaining 15,000 acres will be brought under rubber cultivation during the second phase. Presently 2,598 acres come under rubber cultivation in Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Sylhet districts.

The government will soon set up a rubber board to facilitate the implementation of rubber cultivation programme. The proposed board will be responsible for the rubber plantation in both public and private sectors in place of Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation.

The programme also envisages the construction of central latex concentration factory development of infrastructure for rubber estate and establishment of rubber development centre.

CSO: 4220/7043



VISITING UN TEAMS TO EXAMINE OIL, WATER PROJECTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] A number of United Nations expert teams as well as some foreign consulting firms are expected to visit Bangladesh soon to examine projects in the petroleum and water resources sectors, Kazi Anwarul Huq, Minister for Flood Control Water Resources and Power, said in Dacca on Monday, reports BSS.

The Minister who returned Dacca on Monday, after a visit to the United States and Britain told reporters at the airport that he had useful talks with the executives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and some foreign oil companies who had expressed interests to participate in the country's oil and gas exploration and development of the energy.

He said the UNDP would send an expert team to examine whether mini-hydroelectric projects were feasible in Bangladesh. The team will also study whether the Teesta Flood Control and Irrigation Project can be converted into a multi-purpose project that can also generate hydel-power.

The Minister said another UNDP team was expected to look into the possibility of replacing of diesel by compressed natural gas in the transport sector.

Kazi Anwarul Huq said that during his visit to the United States, he had fruitful discussions with the American geological survey which is expected to help upgrading the Bangladesh geological survey.

Besides, some American private firms had shown keen interest to provide consultancy services to the country's oil and gas exploration and development sector during the interim period till the Bangladesh Petroleum Institute goes into full operation.

On his way back, the Minister had talks in London with British Petroleum (BP) who had shown interest in the exploration activities through a production-sharing contract.

But he said that the British Petroleum was particularly interested in the Surma basin area where Petro-Bangla had already been working. However, the Minister said that company might also be interested in other zones and was expected to send a team to discuss in this regard.

CSO: 4220/7036

# BETTER TERMS FOR MULTINATIONAL OIL FIRMS URGED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Sep 81 p 5

[Article by K.M. Mamudur Rahman]

[Text] The extractive sector of all economics are the most technology and capital intensive, Oil exploration, drilling and production are at the zenith of all such activities. The complexity and sophistication of its technology is unmatched by any other mining sector. The progressive growth in oil-exploration technology has been phenomenal over the last decade. This is manifest in the move to commercially extract oil from the sea-beds of the world, often many miles from the coastline. This technology, like most others, is the monopoly of a few developed countries, or more precisely of some multinational corporations of these industrialised economics. Virtually all developing countries have to rely on these corporations of these industrialised economics. Virtually all developing countries have to rely on these corporations for oil exploration and production within their own territories. This dependence is an unpalatable economic fact.

While most areas of the developing world remain unexplored and unexploited with regard to its oil-potential, the exact opposite is true for industrialised countries. Thus the opportunity to tap these virgin sources, is no doubt an attractive proposition for multinational corporation. At the same time, these Corporation are fully aware of the dependence of less developed economics on their technology. Thus a classic bilateral bargaining situation is involved. In the past most oil corporations owned extremely attractive concessions in developing countries--the later obtaining only one-tenth of the revenue obtained from their oil. The rest of the benefit went to rich developed countries in terms of low price of oil, and to oil corporations in the form of phenomenal profits. This state of affairs encouraged oil companies to invest ever-increasing amounts of capital into developing countries for exploration and production.

In 1973, this state of the distribution of gains from oil exploration was changed drastically by a four-fold increase in earnings of some developing countries producing oil (i.e. OPEC). Even prior to this even, strict production-sharing contracts had begun to come into force in Iraq, Indonesia and few other developing countries. This new-found assertiveness on the part of developing countries. However, it is worth mentioning that since then, over the last 5 years, new investments in oil exploration in all developing countries by multinational corporations have been on the decline both absolutely & relatively.

Bangladesh overtook her oil-exploration activities with new vigour since her independence. Many foreign oil companies were invited to negotiate the terms. Only seven finally agreed and paid signature bonuses to take out options which was an extremely low number in view of the virginity of Bangladesh's soil what is even more surprising is that only three companies actually carried out any substantial exploratory work. These two aspects of Bangladesh's experience with multinationals in oil exploration is clearly explicable by two factors. First, the terms and conditions of the Agreement were perhaps too harsh to permit an attractive return on their high risk capital. Second, despite the unattractiveness of the terms, these companies decided to come in merely on the basis of a defensive oligopolitic strategy i.e. hold concessions in order to prevent other companies from finding oil but not to use the concessions.

There is no doubt that profit-making is the basic goal of any multinational corporation. Their investments in various areas of the world are dictated by considerations of global profit maximisation over the long run. Any investment of high-risk capital in Bangladesh would have to be part of that objective. Therefore the terms of the production sharing contracts offered by Bangladesh would be treated as generous or harsh on the basis of existing investment opportunities, existing rates of return at other places and of course the existing general financial environment of the world. An examination of these facts of the problem will reveal the present policy option available to the Bangladesh Government.

It is widely agreed that virtually all probable land areas for oil exploration in developed countries, had been fully exploited. In other words by 1972 it was an established fact that any increases in world reserves of commercially exploitable oil would have to come from finding oil in the developing areas of the world. This was a healthy position for the less-developed countries. The assertiveness of the developing world was partly hastened by this situation. However, the four-fold increase in price imposed by the OPEC countries changed the state of affairs previously uncommercial oil reserves in developed countries suddenly became profitable. Off shore oil exploration became an economically viable idea. Alternative energy sources suddenly became very promising options. Multinational oil Corporations began to invest huge amounts in these areas within the advances economics. The dependence of oil Companies on less developed countries as sources of energy decline drastically.

In addition, the general financial environment within which these companies operated, deteriorated significantly. Inflation became world-wide and rapid the US Government withdrew its tax rebate on multinationals.

In the context of the above developments, investment opportunities in Bangladesh became less significant for these oil corporations. Due to the absence of detailed geological information and inadequate knowledge of the potential for oil, high risk capital would be involved. This needs very high returns to encourage its flow. It is true that foreign oil corporations in Indonesia are working under production sharing contracts of the type offered by Bangladesh. The same is true in Iraq. However, one should not forget that these stricter terms were imposed only after oil had been discovered and produced in many areas of Indonesia and Iraq. The oil companies were aware of the high probability of striking oil in both these countries. This is certainly not true in the case of

Bangladesh. It is quite possible that no oil may be found or if found, the quantity may be small. Thus, more generous terms and conditions should be offered at this stage of our oil exploration. Once the oil Corporations have invested funds and have discovered and produced oil, the government could then impose a stricter production sharing agreements in view of her increased bargaining power, vis-a-vis the Corporations.

There seems to be a feeling within the Government, that in view of the past experience with foreign companies, Bangladesh should undertake exploration and drilling on her own, by hiring foreign expertise. There are three aspects of this approach which merit serious consideration:

1. Monitoring & controlling the operation of foreign exports.
2. Financing the project.
3. Marketing the oil if discovered.

The first two aspects pose serious problems of this approach as opposed to direct exploration by foreign oil companies.

It is virtually an axiom that to monitor a highly technical, sophisticated and technology-intensive operation like oil exploration there is need of experienced and extremely well-trained indigenous manpower at the highest levels of decision making (like Indonesia), Bangladesh cannot master such skills. Thus it would be impossible to even monitor the work of foreign experts. Exercise of control by the Government on the operation of foreign experts would be totally absent. Thus these foreign technical teams would be endowed with all the freedom to explore and drill for oil without any corresponding responsibility for accountable action. This would certainly be an unacceptable state of affairs. If a multinational was operating instead at least all technical manpower employed, would be controlled and channelised in the right direction, in view of its need to obtain a return on their investment. Bangladesh would serve the spin-offs from their Agreement control and their need to find oil, if it exists.

Secondly, if Bangladesh undertakes exploration she would have to find external finance. This would be very difficult. Development-aid funds would not be forthcoming for this sector. Commercial funds, if available, would carry high interest rates and short maturity periods. If oil is not discovered in adequate quantity, the country would be laid-up with a heavy debt-servicing burden with no corresponding returns to finance the debt. On the other hand multinational corporations would bring in high risk capital which would not lead to any debt servicing burden if oil is not found.

Moreover, if despite the above adverse factors and the riskiness of the venture, oil is found, Bangladesh government would have all the attendant problems of international oil marketing. Oil has an extremely oligopolistic market set-up internationally. This entry into this international market by a nascent marketing company of Bangladesh would entail high costs. In the end, the situation might dictate collaboration with an international oil company with all the problems of bargaining for gains.

A better and sounder option for Bangladesh is to relax the restrictive aspects of the present production sharing contract and increase the possibilities of greater gain to oil companies if oil is discovered. As and when it is discovered, Bangladesh will be well situated to impose better terms for herself both in new agreements and in renewal of old contracts. Without this approach the possibilities of oil production may be lost forever.

CSO: 4220/7028



## STEEL, ENGINEERING PRODUCTS FACE MARKETING PROBLEMS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Sep 81 p 8

[Text] Local steel and engineering products have been facing serious marketing problem due to uneven competition from large-scale imports and imposition of heavy duty and tax on the imported raw materials.

This observation was made by the speakers at the inaugural session of the two-day annual conference of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC). The conference that began at a local hotel on Friday would evaluate the performance of the UNITS under BSEC.

The unfavourable market situation has resulted in stockpiling of finished goods at various units of the Corporation. According to the Director of Finance BSEC, finished goods worth over Taka 68 crore were stockpiled at various units of the corporation by the end of last fiscal year (1980-81).

The Corporation, however, earned a profit of Taka 23.73 crore during 1980-81 which is the highest amount of profit earned by the Corporation during past four years.

The Director of Finance referred to the gradual increase in production and sales proceed during this period. Barring the inflation, the Corporation had been showing gradual improvement in its performance over the previous years, he said.

He said that during the last fiscal year, the Corporation had not been able to export any of its products except 15 diesel engines. This is for the first time country had exported 15 diesel engines worth Taka 1,70,000 to Australia, he said.

Dr Nazrul Islam, Chairman of BSEC, inaugurating the conference said that the management being the main factor in production should be efficient so that the responsibility that had been entrusted with the Corporation could be carried out.

CSO: 4220/7046

BRIEFS

**METRIC SYSTEM ORDINANCE**--The Acting President has promulgated an ordinance on introduction of international system (metric system) of weights and measures on Tuesday, reports BSS. Announcing this, Dr R.A. Ghani Minister of State for Science and Technology said the metric system will be effective from next year. Earlier, the Government decided to introduce the metric system in the country which is in practice throughout the world. The introduction of this system will facilitate both internal and international commercial and business transactions. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 81 p 1]

**AID FROM NETHERLANDS**--The Hague (Holland), Sept 1--The Netherlands has pledged extra financial aid this year to Bangladesh, Kenya, Guinea Bissau and Tanzania, the Development Cooperation Ministry said today, reports REUTER. A spokesman said Bangladesh would get an additional 60 million guilders (21.4 million dollars) over and above 94 million guilders (39 million dollars) already pledged for this year. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 81 p 1]

**SAUDI GRANT ANNOUNCED**--Saudi Arabia has decided to make available 100 million US dollars (about Taka 180 crore) as grant to Bangladesh, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Dacca on Tuesday, reports BSS. The decision of the Saudi Government was intimated to Bangladesh mission in Jeddah, the spokesman said adding that an agreement on the Saudi grant was expected to be signed in Washington between the Finance Ministers of Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh during the forthcoming annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank. The Saudi grant will be utilised for import of foodgrains and spare parts and financing the requirements of the Industrial Bank. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 81 p 1]

**FREEDOM FIGHTERS COUNCIL DISSOLUTION**--Messrs Shafiqul Haq Ansari and Abdul Halim, commander and deputy commander of the Secretariat Unit of Bangladesh Muktiyoddah Sangsad on Tuesday urged the chief of adviser of the Sangsad to dissolve of the Central Command Council, which, they alleged was engaged in political activities ignoring the interest of the freedom fighters. In a joint statement they said that a dynamic and strong leadership should be established at the Central Command Council through constitutional means, to preserve the image of Muktiyoddah Sangsad and promote the interest of the freedom fighters. The Muktiyoddah commanders expressed their deep concern at the activities of the Central Command Council and said that the Sangsad which had been taking organisational measures to rehabilitate freedom fighters as a nonpolitical

organisation had indulged in political activities setting aside the activities relating to the interests of the freedom fighters. They condemned such activities of the Central Command Council. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Sep 81 p 8]

ISLAMIC BANK LOAN--Jeddah, Sept 2--The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) loaned Bangladesh nine million Islamic dinar (US dollars 12 million) to finance imports of cement from Indonesia under an agreement signed here today reports INA. The agreement was signed by President of the Bank Dr Ahmed Mohamed Ali and two officials from Ministry of Commerce and Bangladesh Bank. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 81 p 1]

SOVIET JUTE CONTRACT--Bangladesh Jute Export Corporation on Wednesday signed contracts with a visiting trade delegation from the USSR for sale and export of about 90,000 bales of raw jute worth about Taka 13 crores, reports BSS. The contracts were signed by Mr S.M. Matjur Rahman, Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Export Corporation and Mr V.M. Telesh of Exportljon USSR. Mr V. Nasedkin, Representative of Exportljon in Bangladesh was also present. The USSR is one of the regular and important buyers of Bangladesh jute and this is the first contract signed during the current season. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 81 p 1]

COOPERATION WITH GDR--Bangladesh war-injured Freedom Fighters Action Committee in a Press release expressed its resentment over the report published in a section of the Press under the headline "New game with the crippled Freedom Fighters." The Action Committee termed the news as motivated and baseless and said that the report had tarnished the image of the war-injured Freedom Fighters. The Action Committee said that late President Ziaur Rahman had given recognition to "war-injured Freedom Fighters" by deleting the word "crippled Freedom Fighters." The report, the committee said had maligned the late president. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Sep 81 p 8]

IRAQI COOPERATION--Iraq has assured Bangladesh of its continued cooperation and assistance for the economic development of the country, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed said in Dacca on Friday. Talking to BSS at the airport on his return home after a three-day visit to Iraq, Mr Ahmed said the assurance came when he met the Iraqi President Saddam Hossain during his stay there. He said the Iraqi President with whom he had cordial discussions for about one and a half hours, conveyed his best wishes to the Acting President, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar and the people of Bangladesh. During his stay there Mr Ahmed also met the First Deputy Prime Minister, Industries Minister, Housing Minister and Foreign Minister of Iraq and had discussions with them on matters of mutual interests. The Deputy Prime Minister, who made stopovers at Doha, Kuwait and Amman met the government leaders there and discussed with them matters of bilateral, regional and international issues. These countries also assured Bangladesh of their cooperation in its economic development, Mr Ahmed said. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Sep 81 p 1]

FARIDPUR BYE-ELECTION RESULTS--The BNP nominee, Mr Abidur Reza Khan was on Friday declared elected uncontested to the Jatiya Sangsad in the Faridpur bye-election according to Election Commission sources in Dacca, reports BSS. The Returning

Officer of the Constituency No 222 Faridpur 17 found the nomination paper of the lone candidate, Mr Abidur Reza Khan as valid after scrutiny on Friday. The Jatiya Sangsad seat fell vacant following the death of Muslim League member, Mr Ibrahim Khalil on July 7 last. With the election of Mr Abidur Reza Khan the total number of members belong to the ruling BNP party in the 330 member, Parliament now rose to 250. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Sep 81 p 1]

SUPPORT FOR SATTAR--National Republican Party headed by Mr Zahir Khan, extended its "total support" to BNP Presidential candidate, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, in the forthcoming election, reports BSS. The party took the decision at a meeting held in Dacca on Sunday under the Chairmanship of Mr Zahir Khan says a Press release. The party leaders earlier met the Acting President Mr Justice Sattar on August 28 and discussed the matters relating to the forthcoming polls. The Press release said that the decision to support Mr Justice Sattar was taken with view to materialising the dream of late President Ziaur Rahman and for continuation of democratic process in the country. The NRP adopting a number of resolution in the meeting also warned "a number of political parties" for their conspiratorial acts and observed that the people of the country would no longer tolerate them. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 81 p 1]

PLO POSTER EXHIBITION--An exhibition of Palestinian posters and photos was inaugurated by Dr Fazlul Karim, State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs for Sports and Cultural Affairs at the gallery of Bangladesh College of Arts and Crafts in Dacca on Friday reports BSS. The four-day exhibition depicts life and the long and heroic struggle of the Palestinian people against the occupation of their mother land by the Zionist forces of Israel. Inaugurating the exhibition Dr Fazlul Karim reiterated the whole-hearted support of the people and the Government of Bangladesh to the just cause of the Palestinian brothers in their struggle for liberation against Israel. The State Minister expressed the hope that the exhibition will go a long way in further consolidating and strengthening the bonds of friendship between Bangladesh and the Palestinian people and give an opportunity to witness different lively symbols of their movement for liberation. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ahmed A. Razeq the PLO representative said that the exhibition would reflect history of the people of Palestine and their daily struggle and resistance against Zionist occupation of their motherland. He also reiterated the determination of the Palestinian people to continue their struggle, whether militarily or politically against all odds. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 81 p 3]

DEMONSTRATION IN CORRIDOR--Rangpur, Sept 6--About five thousand students staged a big demonstration at Tingibha corridor today, shouting full throated slogans against continued Indian blockade around Dahagram and Angarpota. Processionists carried relief goods individually for distribution among the starving people of the besieged enclaves. When they reached Panbari border, large number of Indian nationals with bows and arrows massed on the opposite side of Tinbigha corridor. The demonstrators stayed for some time at Piller No 112 demanding immediate withdrawal of Tinbigha blockade. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Sep 81 p 1]



**ISLAMIC DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE MEETING**--Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League will take part in the presidential election in view of the Government's decision to shift the date for the polls in the third week of November in deference to the demands of various opposition parties. It was decided at a meeting of the National Committee of the League which concluded in Dacca on Monday with Maulana Abdur Rahim, party chief, in the chair. In a resolution adopted at the meeting, the party appealed to all Islamic forces committed to the ideals for the establishment of real Islamic order in the country to set up a united candidate. The party felt that its chief, Maulana Abdur Rahim, MP, was the best suitable candidate for this. Yet the party in the interests of greater unity in the Islamic camp has not itself decided in favour of setting up Mr Rahim, MP, as its candidate and hoped that an agreed candidate from the Islamic camp could be finalised after negotiations, says a Party Press release. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Sep 81 p 1]

**RAILWAYMENT SUPPORT SATTAR**--Bangladesh Railway Workers and Employees League, at a meeting on Sunday, lent their total support to the candidature of Mr Justice Abdus Sattar and urged the people, particularly the railwaymen, to elect him in the forthcoming presidential election. Presided over by Mr Maqbul Ahmed, the meeting was attended by delegates from Dacca, Khulna, Jessore, Darsana, Chuadanga, Paksey, Iswardi, Parbtipur, Syedpur, Setabganj, Kawnia, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Bonarpyara, Dewanganj Bazzar, Mymensingh Gauripur, Pahartali Pahartali Workshop, and Chittagong. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Sep 81 p 1]

**MESSAGE TO UAE**--The Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar has sent the following message of condolence to the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan on the sad demise of the Ruler of Ajman, Sheikh Rashid Bin Humaid Al-Nuaimi, according to a PID handout. "I was deeply shocked to hear of the sad demise of His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Humaid Al-Nuaimi, Ruler of Ajman. His death has been a great loss to the brotherly people of UAE. Permit me to convey on behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf to Your Highness, to the Government and the brotherly people of the UAE and to the members of the bereaved family our heartfelt condolences. May Almighty Allah rest his soul in eternal peace. Amin. Please accept, Your Highness the assurances of my highest consideration." [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 81 p 1]

**DEMONSTRATION AGAINST EXECUTIVES**--The Ten Party Alliance and three Mukti Joddha organisations on Tuesday held demonstration in the city streets and demanded of the Government to stop the execution of the 12 army officers convicted in the Chittagong mutiny case, reports BSS. They also demanded open and fair trial of the convicted persons with facilities to defend them by civilian lawyers. The demonstrators represented Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina), Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Bangladesh Workers Party, Jatiya Ekota Party Gono Azadi League, National Awami Party (M), Communist Party of Bangladesh, Awami Party (Tarun) Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Sanghati Parishad Bangladesh, Mukti Joddha Sangram Parishad. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 81 p 1]



**MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER**--The High Commissioner-designate of Malaysia Mohammed Haron, presented his letter of credence to the Acting President, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, at Bangabhaban in Dacca on Tuesday morning, reports BSS. Presenting his credential, Mr Haron expressed the hope that the bonds of friendship existing between the two countries would be further strengthened in the coming days. The Acting President reciprocated the same sentiment. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 81 p 12]

**AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH SRI LANKA**--Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will further expand mutual cooperation in the field of agricultural development, reports ENA. This view was expressed by the State Minister in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests Mr Amirul Islam Kalam, and Dr C.R. Panabokke, Director of Agriculture Sri Lanka when the latter called on the former in Dacca on Wednesday morning. Mr Panabokke, is a member of Sri Lankan delegation to South Asia Agricultural Cooperation Study Group meeting now being held in Dacca Mr Charita Ranasinha, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Bangladesh was present during the meeting. Under a seed exchange programme the two countries will exchange seeds like black papper clove and different types of coconut plants. Under a training exchange programme agri-scientists of BARI and BRRI will receive training in Sri Lanka Agri-research Institutes and Sri Lankan scientists will receive training in BARI and BRRI. Bangladesh will undertake a special scheme for isolated coconut gardens, particularly in the coastal areas. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 81 p 1]

**PLO SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE**--A five member delegation from political parties left Dacca in the small hours of Wednesday for Lebanon to attend an international conference for expressing Solidarity with the Palestinian people. The members of the delegation include Mr Zillur Rahman of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina), Chowdhury Haroonur Rashid of National Awami Party (Haroon), Mr Mohammad Farhad of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Mr Saiful Islam of Ekota Party and Mr Nasim Ali of Bangladesh Workers Party. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 81 p 12]

**DELEGATION TO HAVANA**--A five-member parliamentary delegation led by the Deputy Speaker, Mr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, left Dacca on Thursday evening for Havana to attend the 68th Inter-parliamentary Union Conference to be held there from September 15, reports BSS. Talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport, the Deputy Speaker said the conference to be held from September 15 to 23 would hold discussions on various global problems such as international cooperation aimed at attaining the objectives of disarmament questions violations by Israel of the United Nations resolutions and its attack against Lebanon. The conference will discuss measures for the liquidation of the vestiges of colonialism in the world and the practice of apartheid in Namibia and South Africa and safeguarding the ethnic minorities. Mr Chowdhury who is also Vice-President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) said that the conference would also discuss the energy problems. He said that election for the two posts of executive members of IPU would also be held during the conference one from among the Arab countries while the other from the socialist countries. The other members of the delegation are Mr Nur Mohammad Khan, MP Md Moinuddin Sarkar, MP, Mr Rashad Mosharraf, MP and Kazi Shamsuzzaman, Deputy Secretary, Parliament Secretariat. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 81 p 12]

**NATIONAL FRONT DEMANDS**--The National Front on Thursday called upon the Government to make definite announcement regarding the five point election preconditions of the Front within September 15, says ENA. The Central Committee of the Front in a resolution adopted at a meeting on Thursday with its convener Ataur Rahman Khan in the chair noted with resentment that the Government had so far accepted only one of the five preconditions by shifting the presidential election date. The National Front declared that if the Government fails to accept its four other election preconditions within September 15 the Front would proceed with its programme of a "bigger movement announced earlier." The Front also demanded that electoral disqualification of leaders like Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed and Shafiul Alam Prodhan who were convicted by Martial Law courts, be withdrawn. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 81 p 12]

**GANOTANTRIK COMMITTEE MEETING**--The Standing Committee of Ganotantrik Party at the end of its two-day meeting on Wednesday termed the sudden Indian proposal for discussion with Bangladesh and acceptance of that proposal by Bangladesh Government as "unnatural." The meeting presided over by Hazi Md Danesh, in a resolution observed that the acceptance of Indian proposal and government's contention that the talks would be fruitful were the manifestation of the policy of appeasement pursued by the government. The meeting wanted to know from the government whether the question of armed infiltration across the border had been included in the agenda of the meeting between the two foreign ministers. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Sep 81 p 8]

**DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN**--A four-member trade delegation led by Secretary for Industries Mr M. Matiul Islam left Dacca on Saturday for Islamabad on a six-day visit to Pakistan, reports ENA. Official sources said that the members of the delegation will explore the possibilities of mutual cooperation in the fields of trade and industry. Negotiation is likely to be held on the possibility of setting up of a sugar mill in Bangladesh, the sources said. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 Sep 81 p 3]

**HOSSAIN ADDRESSES AWAMI LEAGUE**--The Presidium of the Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) went into an emergency session on Monday evening to consider a report submitted by Dr Kamal Hossain, who returned home from a fortnight-long visit to London and other European capitals on Sunday. The meeting held at the residence of party chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed with herself in chair. The meeting heard the report of Dr Kamal Hossain summing up his talks abroad with some of the Bangladeshi leaders now in London and former President, Mr Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury. The meeting empowered the party chief to form an 11-member Parliamentary Board to finalise matters relating to the elections. It is learnt that Dr Kamal Hossain had talks with former President Mr Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury during his visit abroad. He had approached Justice Chowdhury to contest the presidential elections on AL ticket which he had reportedly declined. The meeting was adjourned till 10 a.m. today (Tuesday). [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 15 Sep 81 p 1]

CSO: 4220/7052

## GOVERNMENT DECISIONS ON INCREASING CROP YIELDS EXPECTED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES 29 Sep 81 p 5

[Text]

According to a report, the Federal Government will soon take important policy decisions to increase the per acre crop yield, particularly of wheat which is the country's staple food. Low farm productivity is one of the most obstinate problems plaguing Pakistan agriculture during the last 30 years. The situation is receiving fresh attention from the Government in the light of the 200-page report submitted by a group of agricultural scientists who investigated the problem for two years. The report says that in Pakistan farm output is generally low, even in those areas where modern technology has been applied. It points out that compared with the standards of achievable output set by international farm research and the production levels attained in a number of developing countries, the average per acre yield in Pakistan is much too low. The meagre return from farm investment is a stark fact of

Pakistan agriculture, with the overall situation only marginally improving after years of massive injection of funds into the sector. Our productivity is low not only in comparison with the high levels of developed agriculture but is also disappointing when set against the yield per acre in some developing countries. One example is Egypt where average farm productivity is three times that in Pakistan.

The reasons for this state of affairs are many and varied. An important one is that the Green Revolution brought changes only on big farms, while the small ones by and large remained out of its purview. The improved inputs, subsidies and credit for the most part went to the rich landowners. It must also be noted here that the taking of average is a deceptive device which balances the high yields on large farms against extremely low production on subsistence ones. Another significant factor is the

failure to put the new technology to optimum use. Productivity in barani areas presents a particularly dismal picture; it is only half of the national average. Clearly, any remedial measure to be effective will have to take all these aspects into account. While, on the one hand, the search for new improved varieties should be stepped up on the other, extension services should be strengthened to train agriculturists in the use of fertilisers and pesticides. There is a special need to meet the challenge of barani agriculture which, if properly exploited, can turn Pakistan into a grain-exporting country. It is to be hoped the Government will expeditiously complete its study of the findings of the experts committee so that they can be given concrete shape before the next Rabi season.

CS: 4220/29

# ARTIFICIALLY GROWN BARLEY FODDER BEING TESTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM 29 Sep 81 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 28: A special species of barley plant grown artificially in a closed truck is being tested in Islamabad and Faisalabad to determine its suitability as fodder for the cattle in Pakistan it was learnt here.

Each truck yields one ton of the eight inch green plant. An entrepreneur from Karachi who already has one such truck in Landhi and has been growing the plant successfully has disclosed that this special fodder was more nutritious and richer than the ordinary grass. He

said it would cost only one-twentieth of what is spent on the normal fodder given to the cattle in the country.

The artificial conditions of temperature, humidity and rain created within the truck make the grass grow round the year. The grass much liked by the cattle remains green and fresh for at least a week.

A livestock source said a ton of this grass was sufficient for 40 heads of cattle. It also increases milk. He said when it is commercialised the persistent scarcity of fodder would disappear once for all. The artificial barley plant is already being grown and used as

fodder in many countries of the Middle East including Saudi Arabia, Libya, Emirates and Morocco, and other countries with deserts.

The truck, which costs 7,8000 dollars, can be purchased and operated by big entrepreneurs and large farm holders. The one at Karachi, which has now been placed in Landhi, is selling grass to the cattle owners to see in how much time the cost could be met. The owner intends to import more trucks once their cost and suitability of the plant in local conditions

are established officially.

According to the detail spelt out by a source of the ADBP the plant is grown in six trays with a chemical mixed water. After every minute the plants are sprayed automatically. The plant sprouts in water and its roots are also eaten by the cattle. It is said the agricultural loaning agencies and other associated organisations are watching the new experiment with great interest. According to a report they are willing to offer loans to the importers of the trucks.

## BRIEFS

**FERTILIZER STOCK ADEQUATE**--There will be no import of fertiliser for the forthcoming Rabi crop in the country in view of the indigenous production and the sufficient stock kept in reserve. The quantity of nitrogenous and other varieties of fertiliser required for the crop is estimated to be around 15 lakh metric tonnes. Last year, about 13 lakh tonnes were utilised. The Government organisations connected with agricultural supplies are motivating the cultivators to undertake balanced use of fertiliser throughout the Rabi season, i.e., from October to March. Accordingly, the target of fertiliser consumption has been increased by 15 per cent. The Federal Government is subsidising the cost of fertiliser by 50 per cent for the benefit of farmers. In 1980-81, the total subsidy amounted to Rs. 200 crore. Seven factories are, at present, producing urea (nitrogenous) and phosphatic fertiliser. Five belong to the public sector and two to the private sector. Another factory in the public sector is being installed at Rahimyar Khan and is expected to start the production of urea within this year. Fertiliser is to be applied according to the requirement of the crop and the soil. The Soil Fertility Department provides facilities for soil testing but a majority of the growers do not approach it. The local producer of fertiliser are also maintaining adequate arrangements for soil analysis. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES 29 Sep 81 p 3]

**TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEES**--The Government of Pakistan, with the financial assistance of United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, is implementing a skill-training and income-generating programme for the Afghan Refugees. The programme is aimed at imparting training to Afghan Refugees boys along with locals in the art of carpet weaving/other vocations. Each trainee will be given a stipend of Rs. 100 per month during training. Under the programme 14 carpet weaving trainee-cum-production centres (8 in NWFP and 6 in Baluchistan) have already been set up. A total of 107 looms has been installed in these centres and 269 boys are being imparted training in these centres. One vocational training centre has also been established at Killa Abdullah in Baluchistan. Besides the existing carpet vocational centres, 12 more carpet weaving centres, one vocational centre, one blanket-making centre, two garment-making, two handicraft and two embroidery centre's for ladies will be set up. It may be recalled that an expenditure of Rs. 4.97 million was incurred on the implementation of the programme. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM 28 Sep 81 p 3]



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